

Church of the Good Shepherd

CONFIRMATION

RETREAT

AT VILLA MARIA

The class was asked,
“What does Eucharist
mean to you?”

Below are some of the
pictures they painted.



THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA– NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Week of November 10, 2025, Calendar of Events

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

Monday, November 10th

Tuesday, November 11th - OFFICES CLOSED VETERANS DAY

Wednesday, November 12th Discussion Group 10:00 –11:00 AM

Thursday, November 13th Bible Study 10-11:30AM or 4:30-6PM

Friday, November 14th

Saturday, November 15th

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

COLLECTION

11/02/2025

of Registered Families

594

of Envelopes Used

201

Attendance at Mass

610

Attendance Online 11/02

283

Offertory Collection

\$7,711.50

Loose Offertory

\$1,860.00

Children's Envelopes

\$4.00

Human Dev., Cemetery

\$50.00 \$534.50

All Saints, All Souls

\$251.00, \$756.00

Church of the Good Shepherd

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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, November 10 th at 8:30am	Irene Perman	Michaelene Matijevic
Tuesday, November 11 th at 8:30am	Richard Robich	Ed Robich
Wednesday, November 12 th	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thursday, November 13 th at 8:30am	Irene Kapurik Perman	Mary Liz Moroco
Friday, November 14 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Saturday, November 15 th at 6:00pm	Larry Wauzzinski	Barb & Jim Haller
Sunday, November 16 th at 9:00am	Herman DiClaudio	Joe & Carol Baker
Sunday, November 16 th at 11:30am	Erik & Mary Ann VanBuren	Jean Colella

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Nov. 15 th at 6:00pm	Brian Rogers	Brian Rogers Frank Langosh David Pringle Fran Deeb	Mat Macchia – HU Mona Macchia Colleen Pickens	Jean Colella	Alexa & Antonio Macchia
Sunday, Nov. 16 th at 9:00am	Diane Salatino	Gary Salatino Tom Hubert Mike Bartolo Ken Rogers	Bob Devlin – HU Neil Hosick Mary Anderson	Amy Hubert	Andrew David
Sunday, Nov. 16 th at 11:30am	Erin Borowicz	Erin Borowicz Judy Miller Beth Garrett Ann U'Halie	Deb Sokolak – HU Raquel Collins Mary Killingsworth	VOLUNTEER	Jackson & Luke Seelbaugh

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

From Wall Street Trader to Paramedic

Jonathan Kleisner made millions on Wall Street – and hated every minute of it.

So, at 41 years old, he took a job with the New York City Fire Department as a rookie paramedic. And he's never been happier. Kleisner's transition from millionaire commodities trader to rookie paramedic came 13 years ago.

"I was a person who created nothing, gave nothing to anybody," Kleisner says of his time on Wall Street, where he ran his own investment fund. He could comfortably retire tomorrow to his cabin in the Catskills, but instead he remains a rescue paramedic. Once making millions of dollars a year, the father of two now makes an annual salary of \$110,000.

Kleisner was always driven to succeed. He dropped out of college a month before graduating to go to work for a small trading firm on Wall Street at \$40,000 a year – serious money for a 22-year-old in 1991. But the more money he made the more bored he grew with people who cared only about being rich. He realized, "the guy next to me would stab me with a pencil in my eye for the 30 bucks I had in my wallet if he thought he could get away with it," Kleisner said – and Kleisner also knew he was aggressive enough to do the same.

In 2008, Kleisner was climbing Mt. Rainier when a woman in his party blew out her knee. A snowstorm was approaching, and the group needed to get off the mountain immediately. They were rescued by a team of mountaineering medics. Kleisner was deeply impressed by how the medics were able to work in such dangerous conditions. When he returned to New York, he took an emergency medical technician class and applied to the fire department academy.

Today Kleisner, 55, is one of only five medics in the New York Fire Department with the expertise to train other rescue medics, but for him, his second career was a chance to escape a life that gave him no joy. His elite training has enabled him and his team to save firefighters caught in dangerous burning structures, to rescue commuters trapped beneath subway cars and to rescue injured people by rappelling down elevator shafts.

While still working in finance, he volunteered one day a week as an EMT. He and his partner restarted a man's heart by delivering a shock from a defibrillator,

saving the man's life. The story was carried by the local newspaper which his mother clipped and framed.

"I don't think I ever saw my mom more proud of me," Kleisner said. "That was a seminal experience."

New York Times, September 2, 2025

Jonathan Kleisner's life moves from emptiness to purpose, from misery to meaning. He experiences resurrection: dying to self-centered pursuits in order to "rise" to a meaningful and fulfilling life of doing for others. Resurrection is the promise and hope of our faith as Christians – but resurrection is also an attitude, a perspective for approaching life and sorting out the decisions and complexities of our lives. In "dying" to the often overwhelming sense of hopelessness and fear that can paralyze us, we can rise to the heights of the life and love of God that illuminates our lives with meaningfulness and purpose. Resurrection is the realization that our lives matter, that we can make a difference in the lives of others.

Almost twenty centuries ago, an opportunity occurred to the early Church when from the blood, fear, and aggression of the Roman persecutions, a new age blossomed. Christianity was about to make a real difference.

Emperor Constantine lifted the almost three centuries-long reign of terror and embraced the faith and the Edict of Milan allowed Christianity to flourish throughout the empire. From hiding places and obscurity the Church experienced a resurrection and one of the most evident signs of the Emperor's favor was, and is, the building that is the focus of our prayer today – The Lateran Basilica.

Basilicas in Roman times were very much like our County Courthouses. They were oblong with the judges' bench high and at the end of the room. Small precinct offices/workplaces lined the walls where governmental business was conducted. A Roman family, the Laterani, gifted the Emperor with a basilica for public use by the former "underground" church. Now Christians could practice their faith and the ritual that accompanied the sacraments in a spacious location where the Bishop of Rome presided. (CONTINUED)

It is the Dedication of that church we celebrate today. It is the Cathedral church of the Archdiocese of Rome, sometimes referred to as "The Mother of all the Churches"—not St. Peter's in the Vatican. But that's another story for another time.

Enjoy the week! Fr. Glenn & Fr. Frank

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

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

- Sunday, November 9 Class grades K-5 and Confirmation
- *NO CLASS, EDGE ONLY.
- Sunday, November 16 Class all grades
- Sunday, November 23 Class grades K-8 (EDGE)
- Sunday, November 23 Confirmation Class, Thanksgiving Dinner prep and delivery.
- Sunday, November 30
*NO CLASS ANY GRADE --
Thanksgiving Break

FYI

There is a second envelope for next weekend's collection. Bishop Persico has announced a name change for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The CCHD, which is typically taken as a second collection in November, is now called the Local Needs Collection.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the members of the Widows Group who, along with Lauren and Greg, prepared the short memorial service and hospitality we all enjoyed last weekend for the Faithful Departed.



Teen Shepherd

Thanksgiving / Christmas Traditions

The teenagers in Good Shepherd Parish have been serving the parish homebound for many years.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, the students in the confirmation class make and deliver dinners to our parishioners.

In December, the middle school students make cookies and deliver them.

This service provides the homebound connection to the parish and the students with a needed opportunity to serve, which is part of the curriculum.

In recent years we have extended our reach to those who live alone, widowers, widows, and people who just have a hard time cooking for one or two.

If you would like to participate in receiving a Thanksgiving meal or cookies, please contact Lauren at 724-528-3539 ext. 6 or religioused@goodshepherdwm.org



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR...

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL FALL WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, AFTER THE 6:00 PM MASS

Have a relaxing evening with great sounds, interesting hors d'oeuvres, libations, maybe a bit of team trivia and, of course, GREAT fellowship!

If you have a favorite wine flavor or snack, feel free to bring a taste for all to enjoy.

Sponsored by the PPC.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS! 2 BIG THANK YOU'S.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the distribution of groceries on Nov. 5th.

And a special *Thank you* to Mrs. Kristen Kollar and her students, who helped with bagging this month's groceries

GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE This month, we are collecting **Pancake Mix & Syrup** (plastic bottles only).

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



MEN'S CLUB MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

at 6:00 PM

All men of the parish are welcome.



ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

"WHOVILLE"

CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 4th, starting
with Mass at 6:00PM.**

**Catered dinner and
entertainment by
Vincent Miller.**

**Cost is \$12.00 per
person. Reservations
due by November 23rd.**

**ALL LADIES ARE
WELCOME!**

CHARITY DINNER RESULTS, PROCEEDS & THANKS

326 dinners were served at the dinner: 176 in the dining room and 150 in take-outs. A \$2429.40 profit was made. Each of the charities, Joshua's Haven, AWARE & Hunters Sharing the Harvest, will receive \$810. A huge thank you goes to the many volunteers who gave of their time to make this dinner a success. It was wonderful to see both the parishioners, those who work each year and the new ones that came to help out. The adults and students did a fantastic job! Special thanks go to Jeff Creveling & Joe Selenchik who managed the kitchen, Leah Ann Williams who oversaw the running of the dinner on Sunday and those who were in charge of the different stations. I appreciated all that you did to make this a great day for these charities.

Deb Sokolak, Chairperson

Ladies' Retreat Day

Hosted by Women of Faith & Adult Education

 The theme of our retreat is the Vocation of Women

 Saturday, November 15, 2025

 Church of the Good Shepherd, Rt 18 in West Middlesex

 Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

 Retreat begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m.
*Mass is offered at 6:00 p.m.

 Cost is \$15 per person
Pay online or drop payment off to Cathy at the office

 <https://hsplc.org/registration>

 Call Cathy Frank at 724.654.9371 x1



WOMEN'S ADVENT BREAKFAST

December 6, 2025

9:30am

Notre Dame Multi-Purpose Room

Cost: \$20/person



Our Speaker: Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ,
who has served our valley for over 55
years as an educator and so much more!

A table will consist of 6-8 women, one of which will be the hostess. As a hostess, you may either fill your entire table yourself or we will fill your empty seats with new friends. The hostess will be responsible for providing the table settings for her table.

To make an individual or table reservation, please check out Notre Dame Church's bulletin, call Jeanne @ 724.854.6206 or Jo @ 724.699.3340 by November 24th.

We will also have a small Chinese auction with all proceeds going to the Prince of Peace Center. All women 18 years of age or older, any religious denomination, are welcome!

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.

Kick-off | September 17

SHERANGO VALLEY CATHOLIC

YOUTH NIGHTS

WEDNESDAY 7:00 - 8:00 PM DINNER | GAMES | FRIENDS | FAITH

NOTRE DAME | 2025 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | 9-12TH GRADE

You do not have to be Catholic... bring your friends!

Contact Regional Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Cathy Mearns
Email: youth@shenangovalley.org Phone: 724.304.6222

 Knights of Columbus

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday Nov 16, 2025
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

SHORT STACK FOR A TALL CAUSE

Notre Dame Multipurpose Room

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

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FROM THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Know the Warning Signs of a Predator: Perpetrators are not waiting on the street to snatch kids; only 10% of sexually abused children are abused by strangers. 90% are abused by someone known and trusted by the child/child's family. Perpetrators integrate themselves into everyone's life, not just the child. They build relationships so that they are trusted to be alone with the child. One of the most important ways to ensure the safety of children in our environments is to know the warning signs of adults who present a risk of harm to children. Among these signs are when the person (1) always wants to be alone with a child in areas where no one can monitor the interactions, (2) allows a child to do things their parents would not permit, (3) is always more excited to be with children than with adults, and (4) discourages others from participating in activities involving kids. Visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/ for more information and resources.



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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.



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

The Catholic Church has always taught us, through the words of Sacred Scripture and the witness of saints like Francis of Assisi, that the natural world is created by God, that it is good, and that humans have a special duty to care for creation so that it benefits not only themselves but also future generations. Today we live in a time where pollution, climate change, and poor agricultural practices harm creation and place us all in danger.

In 2015, Pope Francis responded to this environmental crisis by issuing the encyclical *Laudato Si'* (*On Care for Our Common Home*), in which he emphasizes the connection between humanity and nature and calls for "the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development" (no. 13).

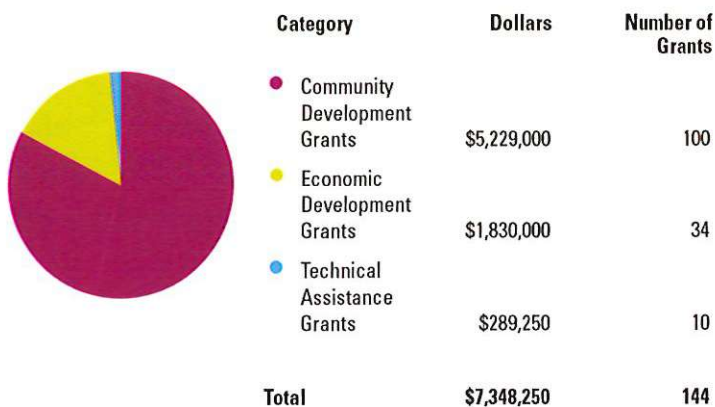
This spirit of cooperation, sustainability, and human dignity animates the work of organizations like La Cosecha Community Supported Agriculture, a cooperative farm network in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which makes

locally grown, sustainable, and nutritious foods available to low-income people. With support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), La Cosecha has expanded its outreach beyond Albuquerque to 11 rural New Mexico counties, increased year-round accessibility to healthy produce and other food products, and obtained a US Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices food-safety certification for its cooperative farm partners.

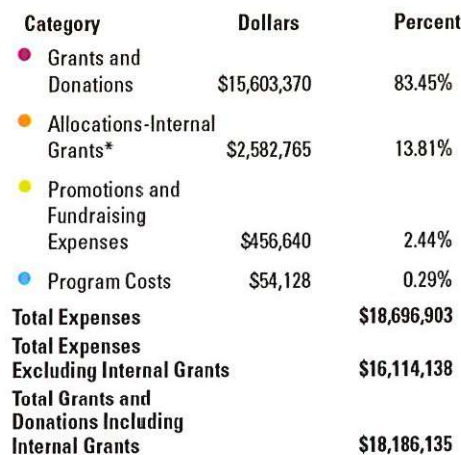
CCHD-funded organizations show how we can care for the environment, address the needs of the poor, and support responsible and sustainable local businesses at the same time. When you participate in the CCHD collection, you help not only other communities but also your own, because 25% of your contribution remains in your diocese to create local solutions to poverty.

To learn more about the collection for the CCHD and the way CCHD upholds the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

2023 GRANTS



2023 EXPENSES



*Internal grants include a distribution from the CCHD collection for CCHD operations and for the education and outreach program of the Office of Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which engages Catholics in our faith-filled call to address the root causes of poverty.

LEARN about those living in poverty who are working to improve their communities. • **ACT** and spread the word about poverty by sharing this flier. • **CONNECT** with the work of CCHD by supporting the collection. • **PRAY** for those who benefit from this collection.



Office of National Collections

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3346 • www.usccb.org/cchd • www.povertyusa.org

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40200425

CAMPAÑA CATÓLICA PARA EL DESARROLLO HUMANO TRABAJANDO DESDE LA PERIFERIA

La Iglesia Católica siempre nos ha enseñado, a través de las palabras de la Sagrada Escritura y del testimonio de santos como Francisco de Asís, que el mundo natural es creado por Dios, que es bueno y que los humanos tienen la singular tarea de cuidar a la creación para que ésta les beneficie no solo a ellos, sino también a las futuras generaciones. Hoy vivimos en un tiempo en el que la contaminación, el cambio climático y las malas prácticas agrícolas están dañando a la creación y nos están poniendo a todos en peligro.

En el 2015, el papa Francisco respondió a esta crisis ambiental publicando la encíclica *Laudato Si'* (*Sobre el Cuidado de la Casa Común*), en la cual él enfatiza la conexión entre la humanidad y la naturaleza y hace un llamado para "unir a toda la familia humana en la búsqueda de un desarrollo sostenible e integral" (n° 13).

Este espíritu de cooperación, sostenibilidad y dignidad humana alienta la labor de organizaciones como La Cosecha Community Supported Agriculture, una red de cooperativas agrícolas apoyada por la comunidad, en Albuquerque, Nuevo México, la cual pone a disposición de las personas de bajos ingresos, unos alimentos nutritivos y sostenibles y

cultivados localmente. Con el apoyo recibido de la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano (CCHD), La Cosecha amplió su alcance más allá de Albuquerque llegando a 11 condados rurales en Nuevo México, incrementó el acceso durante todo el año a productos agrícolas saludables y otros productos alimenticios y obtuvo la certificación de seguridad alimentaria de Buenas Prácticas Agrícolas del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos para sus socios de cooperativas agrícolas.

Las organizaciones que reciben fondos de CCHD nos enseñan a cuidar el medio ambiente, a responder a las necesidades de los pobres y, al mismo tiempo, a brindar nuestro apoyo a las empresas responsables y sostenibles de la localidad. Cuando ustedes participan en la colecta para CCHD, no solo están ayudando a otras comunidades, sino que también están ayudando a las suyas ya que el 25% de sus contribuciones permanecen en su diócesis con el fin de crear soluciones para la pobreza en su localidad.

Para informarse más acerca de esta colecta para CCHD y la manera en que CCHD sostiene las enseñanzas morales y sociales de la Iglesia Católica, visiten www.usccb.org/cchd.

SUBVENCIONES 2023



GASTOS EN EL 2023



*Las subvenciones internas incluyen una distribución de la Colecta de CCHD para los gastos de operación de CCHD y para el programa de educación y extensión de la USCCB para la Paz, la Justicia y el Desarrollo Humano, el cual incluye el compromiso de los católicos a nuestro llamado pleno de fe para abordar las causas raíz de la pobreza.

APRENDAN acerca de aquellos que viven en la pobreza y que trabajan para mejorar sus comunidades. • **ACTÚEN** y diseminen información sobre la pobreza compartiendo este folleto. • **CONÉCTENSE** con la labor de CCHD brindando su apoyo a la colecta. • **OREN** por los beneficiarios de esta colecta.



Oficina de Colectas Nacionales

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

November 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd
West Middlesex, PA

One Minute Meditations

St. Albert the Great

Possibly one of the Church's greatest intellectuals, St. Albert was the eldest son of a powerful German military official. Despite opposition from his family, he joined the Dominican Order. Being well educated, St. Albert desired to make all the learning of the East available to the Latin-speaking West. He earned his doctorate at the University of Paris in 1245 and taught at Paris and Cologne. He is best known as the master of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Praying for the dead

Catholics see Purgatory as an expression of God's mercy — a place where souls who die in His grace, but need further purification, are prepared for Heaven. This month, we pray for our departed loved ones, asking God to bring them quickly into His presence.

One tradition is to request a Mass on the anniversary of a loved one's death. If that soul is already in Heaven, the graces benefit others still in need. In God's mercy, nothing is ever wasted.

"Forgiveness comes...through the soul's desire to be united to me [i.e., to God], the infinite Good, according to the measure of love attained by the recipient's desire and prayer. A person receives as much of my goodness as he gives to me." St. Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*

Christ as King of our hearts

When we proclaim, "Christ is King," we're not making a poetic or symbolic statement. We're declaring a truth that shapes every part of our lives. To live under Christ's rule is to give Him authority over what we believe, how we worship, how we act, and how we spend our time.

What we believe: At the center of our faith is a relationship. Knowing Jesus personally — through the Gospels, through prayer, through the lives of the saints — transforms abstract belief into living faith. When someone asks, "Why are you Catholic?" our answer should come from experience, not just theology.

How we worship: Imagine a king hosting a free, lavish banquet every week for all his subjects. Every Sunday, we're invited to a banquet — not of food, but of grace. To say, "Christ is King" is to obey His words: "*Do this in remembrance of me*" (Luke 22:19). The

Mass is not just a weekly routine; it's a divine encounter.

How we act: Our actions, especially the small ones, speak volumes. Reverence, patience, honesty, integrity,

"You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth."
John 18:37

and generosity are everyday ways of making Christ visible through us. These aren't just virtues — they're signs of loyalty to our true King.

How we spend our time: Daily prayer proclaims that Christ reigns not only over Sunday, but over our entire lives. Whether prayer feels powerful or dry, it anchors us in Him. No time given to Christ is ever wasted.

To say "Christ is King" is to surrender everything to Him. It's a declaration that He reigns not just in Heaven, but here, now, in us.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

An indulgence is "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). This "temporal punishment" refers to the purification the soul undergoes before entering Heaven.

The power of indulgences flows from Christ's sacrifice and is applied through

Why does the Church offer indulgences?

the merits of the saints and prayers of the Church. Indulgences are not shortcuts to Heaven or "free passes"; they require repentance and conversion of heart.

To obtain an indulgence, conditions must be met: sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the Holy Father's intentions, and performance of the indulgenced act.

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21)

There's a common lesson in driver's education: "Your vehicle goes where your eyes go." Spiritually, the same is true — our lives follow what we focus on. What we treasure most lays claim to our hearts. The challenge is to set our hearts on what truly lasts.

"You cannot serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24). What treasure do you set your heart on? A desire for holiness requires us to examine how we live day to day. Are we cultivating trust in God, or grasping for control? Realignment often begins with small, intentional acts: spending time in prayer instead of mindless scrolling; reading the Gospel before the news; choosing simplicity over indulgence and

giving generously to those in need. These are daily decisions that reflect where our heart truly lies.

Trust instead of worrying. Jesus does not condemn wealth, hard work, or responsible planning. Instead, He calls us to live as sons and daughters of God. That means trusting His love, accepting His timing, and offering our lives in service to His Kingdom. Ask yourself: Do I invite God into my decisions, or do I act alone? Am I content to wait on His timing, or do I insist on my own?

When we prioritize the things of God, we invest in a treasure that does not fade — one that shapes who we are now, and endures into eternity.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 24:37-44, Preparing hearts for Christ's coming

In this Gospel reading, Jesus reminds us that we do not know the day or the hour when He will come for us. "*At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*" His message is clear: live each day prepared to meet Him.

Next month, we celebrate His first coming at Christmas. But Christ will come again — at our death, and at the end of time. Advent invites us to ask: "What must I do to be ready?"

Begin by striving to remain in a state of grace. If you are aware of having committed mortal sin, seek God's mercy without delay through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Even if you are not conscious of serious sin,

aim to go to Confession regularly — every four to six weeks, if possible. Examine your conscience honestly, and choose one or two areas of sin to actively work on.

Attend Sunday Mass faithfully, make more time for prayer, and look for opportunities to serve others with love and humility. These practices not only prepare us to welcome Christ when we finally meet Him face-to-face, but they also draw us closer to Him now.

When Christmas arrives, may you greet the Lord not with fear, but with joy — knowing your heart is open, your hands are ready, and your soul is at peace.

corruption and cared for the poor and sick when a plague struck Milan.

November 23 – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. God promised his people a king who would be triumphant over their enemies. Jesus is our King, who triumphed over the enemies of sin and death. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are brought under His kingship.

November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent. During this four-week season, we anticipate the Messiah's birth, remembering the time when He was awaited. During Advent we also look forward to Christ's reign and His coming on the Last Day. We light candles in an Advent wreath each night of the season to signal the coming of the true light of Christ.

Q & A Do Catholics practice tithing?

Tithing is the practice of giving ten percent of your income to the Church. In fact, the word itself comes from an Old English word meaning, "one-tenth." It was based on Jewish tradition in the Old Testament and its first recorded practice was Abraham's offering of a tenth of all he had as a "thank offering" to God for his victory in battle (Genesis 14:18-20). It's still practiced by the Mormon Church.

The Catholic Church does not require tithing; there is no "fixed sum" that God requires of us. Catholics are, however, required to support the material needs of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2043). How much — or little — is between you and God and in light of the needs of your state in life.

Money isn't the only way to support your parish, diocese, or the Church. Giving of your time to volunteer in your parish, donating some of what you don't need to the poor, and even devoting prayers specifically for the needs of your parish priests are all praiseworthy ways to give back.

Feasts & Celebrations

November 2 – All Souls Day. On this day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and the souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to Heaven faster.

November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo (1584). Born into a wealthy family in 1538 in Lombardy, Italy, St. Charles was chosen for the priesthood to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Giovanni Angelo de Medici, the future Pope Pius IV. After earning doctorates in civil and canon law by the age of 21, Charles was named cardinal and bishop of Milan. He worked to reform his diocese of

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

