

Church of the Good Shepherd



Congratulations to the Van Buren Family!

Jeff, Carter, Hannah, and Courtney

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 1, 2026

Week of March 2, 2026, Calendar of Events

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

Monday, March 2nd

Tuesday, March 3rd

Wednesday, March 4th – Food Pantry 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Thursday, March 5th - Passion Narratives this week

Friday, March 6th – First Friday Adoration & Benediction

Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 7th

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	Feb. 22, 2026
# of Registered Families	602
# of Envelopes Used	184
Attendance at Mass	572
Attendance Online 02/22	347
Offertory Collection	\$8,035.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,439.58
Ash Wednesday Collection	\$1,457.00
Children's Env. /Easter Flower	\$1.00/\$5.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, March 2 nd at 8:30am	Ted Gilliland	Dave & Carol Gilliland
Tuesday, March 3 rd at 8:30am	Richard Boyles	Barb & Ken Rogers
Wednesday, March 4 th	NO MASS	
Thursday, March 5 th at 8:30am	Robert Doolin	John & Donna Pavlovich
Friday, March 6 th at 8:30am	Tom Lancaster	Rosalie Hazi
Saturday, March 7 th at 6:00pm	Margaret Supel	Donna & John Lark
Sunday, March 8 th at 9:00am	Vickie Smith	Diane Daly
Sunday, March 8 th at 11:30am	Robert Kemerer	Joe & Marge Latona

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, March 7 th at 6:00pm	Nora Songer	James Sobey Brian Rogers Monica Hanrahan Fran Deeb	John Moroco – HU Cyndee Adamo Colleen Pickens	Cathy Moroco	Hadley & Reagan Simmons
Sunday, March 8 th at 9:00am	Mary Svirbly	Bonnie Smith Tom Sokolak Christine Schwarz Ken Rogers	Bob Devlin – HU Jeff Creveling Neil Hosick	Judy Selenchik	Andrew David
Sunday, March 8 th at 11:30am	Jennifer Muir	Aiden Puskar DJ Puskar Beth Garrett Lisa Dach	Pam Esposito – HU Don Kemerer Jake Bayuk	VOLUNTEER	Luke & Jackson Seelbaugh

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR



“Our father in faith...”

That’s the title we give Abraham (AKA “Abram”) in one of the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass. After the first 11 chapters of the Book of Genesis, loaded with pre-history stories that supply us with an artful presentation of the downward spiral of moral disintegration (Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, Babel’s tower), we begin what is called “Salvation History”. When our ancestors discover that they can’t get to heaven by building a ziggurat using their own devices, we have to wait on God to construct the means that will bridge the gap between the human and the divine.

It shouldn’t surprise us then that God chooses to begin that construction project with human flesh. A fellow named Abram gets a seven-fold blessing from a god he doesn’t know, apparently for no good reason whatsoever. Abram is a fallible soul, a gambler enticed by the thrill of an unseen and uninsured promise. So long as the promise is matched by prosperity, he’s content to follow through as God’s man.

When his own security is on the line, however, Abram is just as quick to trade his beloved wife to ensure his freedom – or sleep with the maid if it simplifies his objectives. Abram’s character is brilliantly disclosed in his famous debate with God over Sodom’s fate (not unlike Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*). He’s humble, courteous even fawning as he makes his case – while pushing his case to surprising limits with all the aggressiveness of a skilled attorney. .

The thing to remember here is that God *likes* Abram, really delights in him as a partner in the foundational stories of humanity’s salvation. God appreciated Abram just as Jesus later speaks highly of the unjust steward and in recognition of the same rare quality: what we used to call pluck! *Abram* becomes *Abraham*, father of the nations, because he has the guts to do it, to take the risk. God in turn accepts this stunning faith in the unseen and credits it back to him as righteousness. It is almost comic

that future believers will focus on storing up righteousness because they imagine that it keeps them safe and dry from risk. Yet as the story goes, God can manufacture righteousness from stones if need be. What God looks for in a partnership is rare and wonderful nerve.

Later key partners will demonstrate this trait: Moses marching Abraham’s cantankerous children across the desert landscape or Elijah staring 400 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. No wonder when Jesus is revealed as the Divine Son, he’s standing in the company of these noteworthy gamblers who risked life and limb to unroll the great work of salvation. If we want to join their partnership, one thing we can’t do is play it safe.

Fr. Frank/Fr. Glenn

Talk about taking a risk and giving witness; we were privileged to hear Vince Lombardi’s witness last weekend encouraging the men of the parish to take part in the Emmaus Retreat for Men in Bethel Park, PA, on the weekend of March 20th – 22nd . What a great opportunity – and it’s free!

Whatever you leave behind here to go there will still be here when you return – with new lenses to recognize opportunities God places before us every day to be embraced by His love. Not unlike the story of Abram!!

Another powerful witness last weekend was given by our 11 Elect and Candidates to a couple hundred people and Bishop Persico at the Cathedral in Erie. They’ve been working for these last couple months on taking apart the teachings of the Church and making connections with them and their own unique faith journeys. Let’s keep them in prayer this Lent: *Gavin, Cross, Mackensie, Luke, Ava, Gabby, Noah, Ashley, Ainsley, Joshua, and Bill*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

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

- March 1 Class all grades
- March 1 Grades 4-5 will pack food for the food pantry
- March 7 Class Mass grades 3-5 at 6:00pm
- March 8 Class grades K-5 and Confirmation
- March 8 EDGE class Mass 11:30am and EDGE retreat from 1-5 pm at St. Camillus
- March 14 Saturday First Reconciliation retreat and sacrament
- March 15 Class all grades.

Transformation is a natural part of family life. When we commit to someone, whether it's a spouse in marriage or a child in parenting, we are pledging our support not just to who they are today, but to the person they are continually becoming. (A Family Perspective)

Becoming Catholic

Our catechumens now called the Elect, and the candidates are entered into the next stage in the process of becoming catholic.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

The period of Purification and Enlightenment takes place during the season of Lent and immediately precedes the initiation of the elect and candidates into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. It is a period of spiritual preparation and reflection, centered upon the process of purification and conversion.

Scrutinies

The scrutinies are celebrated during the period of Purification and Enlightenment on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. They are rites meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect, and to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The scrutinies deepen the resolve of the elect to love God above all.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL 2026

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

<i>Total Pledged as of 02/23/26:</i>	\$48,755.00
<i>Total Paid as of 02/23/26:</i>	\$33,620.00
<i>Diocesan Parish Goal:</i>	\$52,074.00
<i>Parish Project Goal:</i>	\$90,500.00
<i>Pledges Made:</i>	105



Please pray for our second graders as they prepare for their First Reconciliation, March 14.

*Noelle, Micheala, Finley, Levi,
Braylen, Palmer, and Amelia.*

Please continue to pray for them.

Elect

Gavin Mathews

Cross Arbuckle

Mackensie Attiscano

Luke Baker

Ava Sellers

Gabby Ricker

Candidates

Noah Bianco

*Ashley
Baldsberger*

Ainsley Cain

Joshua Dobbins

Bill Logan

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

It's time to send in your requested dates that you are NOT available in May, June and July. I will be working on the next schedule soon. Thanks!

**GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY
"MARCH FOOD DRIVE"
FRUIT JUICE
PLASTIC BOTTLES**



SMALL OR LARGE JUICE BOXES



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, MARCH 4TH
FROM 3:00 - 4:30 PM**



**FOOD PANTRY NEWS!
2 BIG THANK YOU'S.**

To volunteers who helped
with the distribution
of groceries on March 4.

And a special *Thank you* to our Religious Ed. students who helped with bagging this month's groceries.

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP?

**FR. BOB GIELOW, MISSIONARY
FROM VINCENTIAN PARISH
MISSIONS IS COMING BACK!
DON'T MISS IT!**

**LADY OF FATIMA
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays at 12:15pm. with communion to follow.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, March 1st at 2:00pm
at Notre Dame (Hermitage, PA)

Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00pm
at St. Joseph Parish (Sharon, PA)

Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00pm
at Good Shepherd (West Middlesex)

Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00pm
at Beloved Disciple (Grove City, PA)



Parish Mission

March

23,24,25

WHERE : GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

TIME 6:30PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

MISSION THEME: "His Mission is Our Mission"

**refreshments after each mission talk
in the social hall**

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for 3v3
basketball:




Beginning this Lent

St. Joseph Church will host a Men's Rosary Group on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19. We will be reading *The Contemplative Rosary: With St. John Paul II and St. Teresa of Avila*, having an in-depth discussion on the mysteries of the rosary, and praying the rosary together. There will be a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the books and supplies.

To sign up, please call the church office at 724-981-3232.

**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.

**St. Joseph Day
Italian Dinner**

Benefitting the St. Joseph Food Pantry

Saturday, March 21

Doors open at 6:00 PM • Dinner is served at 6:30 PM

All guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item.

Raffle Baskets and Italian Cookies are needed!

Please contact the parish office if you are able to donate a raffle basket or if you can cook Italian cookies.

St. Anthony Lenten
FISH FRY

Beginning Fri., Feb. 20th
and serving every Friday during Lent, including Good Friday

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Dine In or Take Out

MENU

\$16 Fried or Baked

Fish Dinners include choice of: fresh cut fries or baked potato, homemade coleslaw or applesauce, and peanut butter cookie

\$13 Palacinke Dinner

TRY OUR FISH AND YOU'LL BE HOOKED

ANTONIUM (Sherman Ave. Entrance)
Hall is Handicap Accessible




Knights of Columbus Easter Bread Sale!

Bread purchases and pickup will be available throughout Saturday at the John Paul School Kitchen and also before & after the March 28th & 29th Masses @ OLF, St Barts, & ND when possible Traditional, Raisin, and Tri-Color \$10 or any 3 for \$25

We can arrange pre-sales; For order or pickup you may contact Rich at 724.991.0116 (Phone or Text) or email at Fleis.Rich@gmail.com

Interested in: [] Easter Bread Volunteer (Bake or Distribute – All are welcome, and fun family activity! Can you braid hair?!? WE LOVE BREAD BRAIDERS!) [] Being part of the Knights of Columbus [] Making donation towards supplies



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