

Church of the Good Shepherd



WELCOME!
TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAMILY.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER– APRIL 12, 2026

Week of April 13, 2026, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass
Monday, April 13th - Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 6PM
Tuesday, April 14th
Wednesday, April 15th
Thursday, April 16th - Don't Eat Alone 5PM in Social Hall
Friday, April 17th
Saturday, April 18th

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 5, 2026
# of Registered Families	616
# of Envelopes Used	168
Attendance at Mass	1043
Attendance Online 04/05	346
Easter Sunday Collection	\$8,499.00
Loose Offertory	\$3,027.26
Easter Vigil Collection	\$1,787.00
Good Friday	\$924.00
Easter Flowers	\$360.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, April 13 th 8:30am	Clara Bachick Paul & Nancy Wozniak & Ed & Rita Wozniak	
Tuesday, April 14 th 8:30am	Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell	Estate
Wednesday, April 15 th	NO MASS	
Thursday, April 16 th at 8:30am	David Ochs	Family Members
Friday, April 17 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Saturday, April 18 th at 6:00pm	Ernest Podleyon	John & Donna Pavlovich
Sunday, April 19 th at 9:00am	Steve Sveda	Dale & Mary Ellen Doult
Sunday, April 19 th at 11:30am	Margaret Supel	Mary Rose Marks

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, April 18 th at 6:00pm	Lyndon & Michael Cain	Charlene Cain Michael Drda Monica Hanrahan David Pringle	John Moroco – HU Mary Ellen Doult Cyndee Adamo	Cathy Moroco	Rianne Cain
Sunday, April 19 th at 9:00am	Ron Carson	Mike Bartolo Tom Hubert Tom Sokolak Ken Rogers	Ed Grober – HU Neil Hosick Jeff Creveling	Amy Hubert	Andrew David
Sunday, April 19 th at 11:30am	Jennifer Muir	Aiden Puskar DJ Puskar Mary Lu Walters Beth Garrett	Deb Sokolak – HU Raquel Collins Maurice Igou	VOLUNTEER	James Maynard

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR



Thomas said, "I will not believe until I place my hand in his side..."

Of all the apostles named among the 12, I'd venture to say we have real affection for barely a handful. There aren't many fan clubs for James the son of Alphaeus, and even though there might be local devotees of Bartholomew (in the 16150 Zip code), there might have been more members in that club if the scriptures were unanimous on whether to call him Nathaniel or Bartholomew. If we've got some Proud Boys in the area they might have some connection to the "Sons of Thunder," the sons of Zebedee. But if there was to be a show of hands for favorite apostle, Peter and Thomas would lead the pack.

Peter has enormous stature in the church for obvious reasons; we love Thomas for only one – today's gospel passage in John. But on closer inspection, in John he appears in three other passages: (1) when he urges the others to go with Jesus belatedly to Lazarus' house "to die with him", (2) at the Last Supper when he says he doesn't know where Jesus is going, and (3) when he is singled out to go fishing with Peter and some others after today's episode and his recognition of Jesus in his glorified body in the Upper Room.

Thomas "got on board" with his personal faith proclamation, "My Lord and my God." From the beginning of Jesus' ministry he was inviting the disciples and apostles to accompany him on a fishing expedition for his sake. It is significant that Peter's first post-resurrection experience is to gather a portion of those called to resume their initial vocation on the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberius).

The roll call of those who got in the boat is not as random as we might think: Thomas the former doubter, Nathaniel the reformed cynic, Zebedee's now humbled sons (*recall their mom asked for first row seating for them in Jesus' kingdom*), and two mysterious "others" – one of them being the Beloved Disciple. No point in spilling more toner in the controversy of who the Beloved Disciple is, which won't be solved here. It's more intriguing to consider who the other

"other" might be...does that leave room for you or me in the boat?

Taking in the whole story of Thomas at a glance is important because many of us get stuck in this one episode, which reveals Thomas the Problem. It's obvious that John's intention to provide us with Thomas the Solution, the redeemed one, viewed over the whole spectrum of his discipleship. Just like Thomas, we problem disciples still have time to get on board.

All aboard, Alleluia.

Father Frank and Father Glenn

THANK YOU

The celebration of the Triduum and Easter in both our parishes brought great joy to us all....Hospitality groups in each church provided endless refreshments and opportunities for conversation and catching up with each other...the initiation and formal welcome of new Catholic Christians at the Vigil is a highlight of our liturgical year. Our new parishioners are: *Cross Arbuckle, Mackensie Attiscano, Luke Baker, Gabrielle Foster, Gavin Matthews, Ava Sellers, Ashley Baldsbege, Noah Bianco, Ainsley Cain, Joshua Dobbins and Bill Logan.*

The environment in both churches was beautiful and carefully done by the decorators and funded by your Easter flower donations...special thanks to the various instrumentalists and vocalists and all those who assisted in moving furniture, printing programs, stuffing bulletins, scattering and hunting Easter eggs on Sunday morning and singing up a storm on Sunday.

From the Pastor:

I am grateful to announce that Bishop Persico has appointed Fr. William Barron as Sacramental Assistant to the following parishes in Mercer County:

- Beloved Disciple, Grove City
- Good Shepherd, West Middlesex
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer
- Notre Dame, Hermitage
- Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell
- St. Bartholomew, Sharpville
- St. Columbkille, Stoneboro
- St. Michael, Greenville

In this assignment he will support the pastors of the area by helping to provide sacramental assistance and other priestly ministry as needed. This role is intended to strengthen the ministry of the local church by ensuring that priests have support when they are ill, away, or in need of assistance. It is not intended to create additional Mass times or to change parish leadership.

He will reside in the rectory of Good Shepherd Parish, and his duties will be coordinated by the local Dean, Father Andrew Boyd. This appointment became effective on April 6, 2026, and continues until July 31, 2027.

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Bill to Mercer County and to our parish!

Fr. Glenn

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>	<i>\$52,074.00</i>
<i>Total Pledged as of 04/07/26:</i>	<i>\$101,660.00</i>
<i>Total Paid as of 04/07/26:</i>	<i>\$73,889.00</i>
<i>Surplus after Assessment:</i>	<i>\$21,815.00</i>
<i>Parish Project Goal:</i>	<i>\$90,500.00</i>
<i>Surplus from CSA 2025:</i>	<i>\$37,419.24</i>
<i>Remains at Good Shepherd to be used toward roof replacement on Social Center / HVAC</i>	

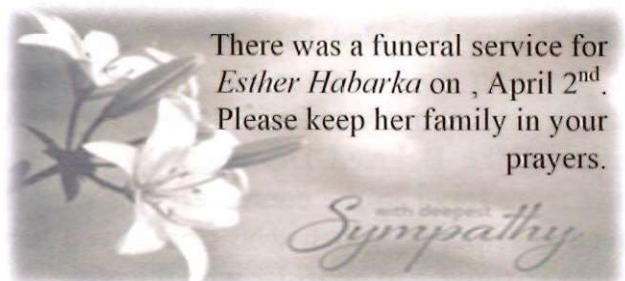
CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL 2026

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>	<i>\$21,724.00</i>
<i>Total Pledged as of 04/07/26</i>	<i>\$38,352.00</i>
<i>Total Paid as of 04/07/26:</i>	<i>\$30,877.00</i>
<i>Over goal:</i>	<i>\$9,153.00</i>
<i>Remains at Our Lady of Fatima to complete the restoration of our Rectory and Office after our winter water disaster.</i>	

Baptisms: *Rocco Domonic McKee* was Baptized this weekend. He is the son of Matthew and Jacqueline. Congratulations to the McKee Family!

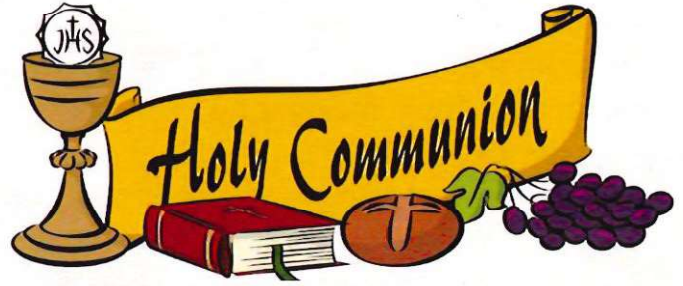


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

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

April 12 Class all grades
April 19 Class all grades
April 21 Confirmation Practice
at Notre Dame 7:00pm
April 25 Thursday
Confirmation Mass at Notre Dame 7:00pm
April 26 LAST CLASS
May 3 11:30 Mass First Holy Communion



First Communion will be celebrated on May 3rd at the 11:30 Mass. Pews will be reserved for the First Communion families in the middle aisle of the church.

GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY "APRIL FOOD DRIVE" ASSORTED CANNED VEGETABLES



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



Last month's

Collection:

Juice

180 bottles

181 cases of boxes

127 misc. Nonperishable food items

A Family Perspective 4-12-2026

"Whose sins you forgive, are forgiven" signifies that the Kingdom of God begins in your home, where children learn the paths to peace through the example set by their parents. Holding onto grudges only leads to greater misery over time.

DON'T EAT ALONE THURSDAY, APRIL 16th

5:00 in the Social Hall

Turkey and Ham are on the menu. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Space.



ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH

You're invited to put on your favorite
"BLUE JEANS"

And join the Altar Rosary Society for
Fellowship, fun, & food

At our end of the year Bash!!!

When: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Where: Church Social Hall

Time: 6:00pm

RSVP Before April 26, 2026 by

Calling or texting:

Cindy – (330) 717-6813

Kathy – (724) 813-3766 or

Lisa – (724) 977-0531

Hope to see you there!!!

Men's Fellowship Group

Starting Saturday 4/11 at 8:30am in Good Shepherd Church Hall (where the Men's Club meets)

You're invited to join our **Men's Fellowship Group**—a place where men come together to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and support one another through life's challenges and victories. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to feel isolated or overwhelmed. This group is designed to be a space where you can step away from the noise, connect with other men who share similar values, and strengthen your relationship with God. Whether you're new to faith, returning after some time away, or have been walking this path for years, you are welcome here.

Our gatherings include:

- **Encouraging conversations** about real-life topics men face every day
- **Bible study and reflection** to deepen understanding and spiritual growth
- **Prayer and support** for one another in a respectful, judgment-free environment
- **Brotherhood and connection** built through shared experiences and fellowship

There's no pressure—just come as you are. Whether you're looking for guidance, community, or simply a place to belong, this group is here for you. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to Dan Andrusky 724-699-1434. We'd love to see you there and grow together in faith and fellowship.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” – Proverbs 27:17

2026 MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS

In Memory of:

*Matthew P. Takash, Laura & Elmer Takash, Sr.,
Michael S. Murcko, & Gail & Elmer Takash
Karen E. Scott*

From:

*Christine Paxton
Dr. Albert Scott*

SAVE THE DATE

**Good Shepherd is hosting
the West Middlesex Community VBS!
Dates: July 12-July 16 more information coming soon.**



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments Child Abuse Prevention Month: Who is a Mandated Reporter? A mandated reporter is required by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected or disclosed cases of child abuse to ChildLine or law enforcement. Mandated reporters in our diocese are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies, and institutions. All clergy, employees and volunteers working/serving in our parishes, schools or agencies are mandated both legally and morally to report any reasonably suspected or known child abuse to ChildLine, the local law enforcement, or other appropriate agency. Visit www.eriercd.org/childprotection/ to learn the specific reporting procedures required by the diocese.



Flynn's Tire
& Auto Service

Save Time, Shop Online!

**LOWEST TIRE PRICES
GUARANTEED!!!**

www.FlynnTire.com

**"MORE GOOD
HAIR DAYS"**

10% off

Your First Appointment
With a Copy of This Ad

Kenneth's Beauty Salon

441 State Rt 18 - New Wilmington, PA
Salon - 724-946-2771 Text - 724-944-9556

DAVANO
PAVING CO.

**DRIVEWAYS - PARKING LOTS
RESURFACING - SEALCOATING**
"PAVING THE WAY SINCE 1957"

724-528-9575

**CENTRAL
Heating & Plumbing**

Reliable Service
Since 1967

NEW CASTLE GROVE CITY
SHARON

www.centralheatingandplumbing.com



**Nelcom
Technologies**

MANAGED IT SERVICES

3009 Wilmington Rd - Suite B
New Castle, PA 16105
724-654-4007

"We Do IT Better"

*A Catholic community
foundation serving you*



814-824-1237
MyCatholicFoundation.org



3170 E. State St. • Hermitage, PA
724.346.1105
Fax: 724.346.1107

FULL COLOR DIGITAL PRINTING / COLOR COPIES
LARGE VOLUME B&W COPIES / LAMINATING
MAILING SERVICE / BINDING / FAX SERVICE
www.hermitage.minutemanpress.com

JOHN FLYNN
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY INC
Serving All Faiths & Cemeteries

2630 E. State St Hermitage, PA 724-347-5000
BRIAN R UZARSKI Funeral Director

GEALY
MEMORIALS
MONUMENTS
724-342-5186
Hermitage Pa

For advertising information, contact Jim Sarvas • (724) 301-7825



McGonigle
Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc
724-347-7575
www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com

Tam O'Shanter
Golf Course
I-80 & Rt. 18 North
Hermitage 981-3552
-Yours For Better Golf -

1479 N. Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148
724-962-3200
JFSWA.COM





Smith Funeral Home, Ltd.
3126 Main Street
W. Middlesex, PA 16159
724-528-3222
Craig Cunningham Smith
Supervisor

The law firm where we treat you like part of the family

HARTLE ELDER LAW PRACTICE, LLC

2500 Highland Road • Suite 105
Hermitage, PA 16148

CAROLYN E. HARTLE, ESQUIRE

Phone: 724-962-3606
Fax: 724-979-6610



**HOSPICE, HOME HEALTH,
HOME & PERSONAL CARE**

HELPING HANDS
HOME CARE SERVICE
724-996-7580



YOUR HEALTH, YOUR HOME, OUR HELPING HANDS



BUYERS OF STANDING TIMBER

Manufacturers of Industrial Lumber and Fine Hardwoods

Please contact Patrick Chovan, President
hello@omegalumber.com • www.omegalumber.com
(724) 342-5430


RONALYN MITCHELTREE
Multi-Million Dollar Producer
Cell: 724-730-2702
Office: 724-654-5555 Ext 270
rmitcheltree@howardhanna.com




CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY
PRAY EVERYDAY AT 3pm on: EWTN
www.thedivinemercy.org/message


BAKER
Professional Counseling

Quality Ethical Care
for Children and Adults
with Mental Health needs
724-201-2779



LOMBARDI DENTAL
"DISCOVER YOUR SMILE"

DOMENIC G. LOMBARDI, D.M.D. - PARISHIONER
60 N. Mercer Ave, Sharpsville, PA 16150 724-962-2138
WWW.LOMBARDISMILES.COM



For advertising information, contact Jim Sarvas • (724) 301-7825

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.

ALL LIVES MATTER

MARCH 16, 2026

Please keep in mind that
this was written a month ago.

A A A

Theodore Roethke begins his poem *In a Dark Time*, with these words: "In a dark time, the eye begins to see."

We live in a dark time, one beset with hatred, bitter divisions, and wars that, daily, are bringing death and incalculable trauma to millions of people. But are our eyes beginning to see?

Sometimes in a dark time, irreverent humor can help us see. Here's an example: Recently I was leading a retreat at a renewal center near a beach. Taking a walk on the beach during one of our breaks, I saw three young men sitting on the back of a pickup truck. The truck's stereo was blasting music that could be heard for hundreds of yards, and the three young men, their baseball caps turned backwards, were joyously hoisting beer cans and happily waving to everyone around them. And above the truck flew a large flag which read: *Drunk lives matter!* Their joyous irreverence lifted my spirits, as it did too for the retreatants when I shared the story with them.

Yes, sometimes we see that even drunk lives matter. All lives matter.

That all lives matter needs to be highlighted right now because today we are being given the strong impression from some of our top government officials and others that some lives don't matter, at least not as much as our own and those of our loved ones. Here's the point:

During the past weeks, the USA and Israel have been at war with Iran, a war that has destabilized millions of lives. During these weeks there have been 15,000 bombing strikes in Iran and Lebanon, and Iran has retaliated with countless strikes directed against USA and Israeli interests.

A number of American and Israeli lives have been lost and several hundred Americans and Israelis have been injured. And we have properly mourned those deaths and injuries, mourned that these precious lives were lost or injured. Our empathy let us see that these lives were precious and that some irreplaceable oxygen left the planet when each of them died. We recognized that their lives mattered. And that's to our credit.

However, during this time, more than 2000 lives have been lost in Iran and Lebanon and hundreds of thousands have had their lives ripped apart irrevocably, and (at least publicly) we have not awarded them the same empathy that we gave to our own. For us, it seems, their lives were not as precious as our own.

Perhaps this can be excused (or at least understood) by the fact that we don't see these other lives firsthand. They're far from us, abstract, faceless, nameless, Iranians and Lebanese.

However, what's not excusable is the very cavalier and callous way this war and those deaths are being talked about by some government leaders and others around them. Their language in the face of all these deaths and the dislocation of millions is the language of celebration; what one might hear at a football game when your home team is humiliating a hated foe. *We're beating them! We're humiliating them! We're bombing them into oblivion! Yay!*

Where is our empathy for their suffering, for their dead, for the millions of lives that are now being torn apart by death, dislocation, and heartbreak? It's as if Iranian and Lebanese deaths aren't real, like the virtual killings in a video game. Even the title of this war smacks of a video game: *Epic Fury!* But this isn't a video game. Real people are

dying. Hundreds are dead and millions are living with hearts that are breaking or in despair.

RONROLHEISER, OMI (/)

We are called by what's best in us is to touch that part of our heart where we care for more than only our own. We need to touch that deeper empathic part inside us that can say (and say out loud): *Iranian lives matter! Lebanese lives matter! All lives matter! Every life is as precious as my own.*

Of course, we also need to keep saying that American lives and Israeli lives matter.

All human lives are equally precious in God's eyes. As St. Paul says in his *Letter to the Galatians* (3,28): "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ." In effect, that's saying that in Christ there is no American or Iranian, no Israeli or Lebanese, no lives that don't matter or matter less than other lives.

War is war and there can even be just wars, and understandably people die in wars. That can be accepted.

But, we have better hearts than falling into selective empathy. We have better hearts than to celebrate the death and the destruction of lives as we would celebrate the triumph of our favorite sports team demolishing a hated rival. We have better hearts than seeing the deaths and the destruction of countless lives as not fully real, like the dead in video games.

We're better than that!

