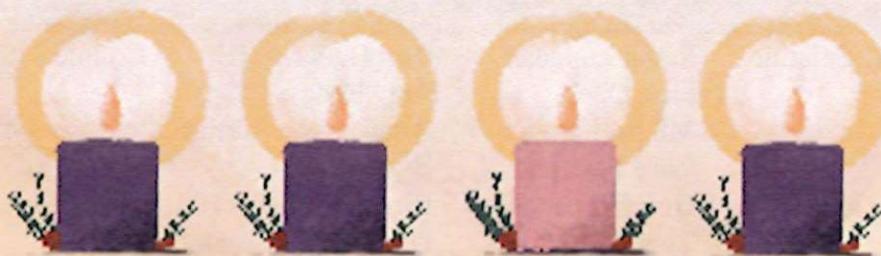


Church of the Good Shepherd

Fourth Sunday

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 21, 2025

Week of December 22, 2025, Calendar of Events

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

Monday, December 22nd –

Tuesday, December 23rd

Wednesday, December 24th – 5pm & 10pm Mass / Offices Closed

Thursday, December 25th – 10am Mass / Offices Closed

Friday, December 26th – NO MASS / Offices Closed

Saturday, December 27th

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

COLLECTION

# of Registered Families	596
# of Envelopes Used	141
Attendance at Mass	499
Attendance Online 12/14	343
Offertory Collection	\$6,839.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,013.00
Solemnity/Cath. Communication	\$20.00/10.00
Retirement/Local needs	\$1,451.00/30.00
Flowers/Parish Gift/Christmas	1,131/720.00/50.00

Mass Intention Date & Time

Intentions

Requested By

Monday, December 22 nd at 8:30am	Karen Dubrasky	Brother, Tim Dudash
Tuesday, December 23 rd at 8:30am	Louise Stefanak	Ed Robich
Wednesday, December 24 th at 5:00pm	For Our Living & Deceased Parishioners	
Wednesday, December 24 th at 10:00pm	For Our Living & Deceased Parishioners	
Thursday, December 25 th at 10:00am	For Our Living & Deceased Parishioners	
Friday, December 26 th at 8:30am	NO MASS	
Saturday, December 27 th at 6:00pm	Buck Stefanak	Family of Dave & Helen David
Sunday, December 28 th at 9:00am	Annette Wingerter	Family
Sunday, December 28 th at 11:30am	Jacob Bakuhn	Audrey Bakuhn

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTOR

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

USHERS (HU –Head Usher)

GREETERS

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, Dec. 27 th at 6:00pm	Diane Salatino	Frank Langosh Fran Deeb Michael Drda Gary Salatino	Paul Bauer – HU Jody Drda Brian & Debra Biggins	Connie Titus	Luke & Jackson Seelbaugh
Sunday, Dec. 28 th at 9:00am	Ron Carson	Howard Fagan Tom Hubert Diane O'Rourke Ken Rogers	Patrick Miller – HU Darlene & Don Kotuby	Judy Selenchik	Vincent Miller
Sunday, Dec. 28 th at 11:30am	Olivia Gingras	Ann U'Halie Judy Miller Rudy Koraus Beth Garrett	Deb Sokolak – HU Don Kemerer Mary Killingsworth	VOLUNTEER	Madison McClelland and or VOLUNTEER

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: religoused@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

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR

“JOSEPH, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY HOME AS YOUR WIFE... YOU ARE TO GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS...”

A person was not given a name arbitrarily among the Hebrews, because the name, as in almost all ancient cultures, represents a person's being, his/her true identity and what is expected of them in their lives.

It is for that reason the evangelist Matthew is very keen from the beginning to explain to his readers the profound meaning of the name of the person of whom he is going to speak throughout his gospel. The name of that child not yet born is “*Jesus*” which means “*God saves*.” He is so named because he will save his people from their sins.

In the year 70 AD, just after he has put down the Jewish revolt in Judea, the new Emperor Vespasian marches toward Rome where he is welcomed and acclaimed by two names: “*Savior*” and “*Benefactor*.” The evangelist Matthew wants to make things clear. The “*Savior*” the world needs is not Vespasian but Jesus.

Salvation will not come to us from any emperor or any victory of one people over another. Humanity needs to be saved from evil, injustice and violence; it needs to be pardoned and to be reoriented toward a more dignified life for human beings. This the salvation offered to us in Jesus.

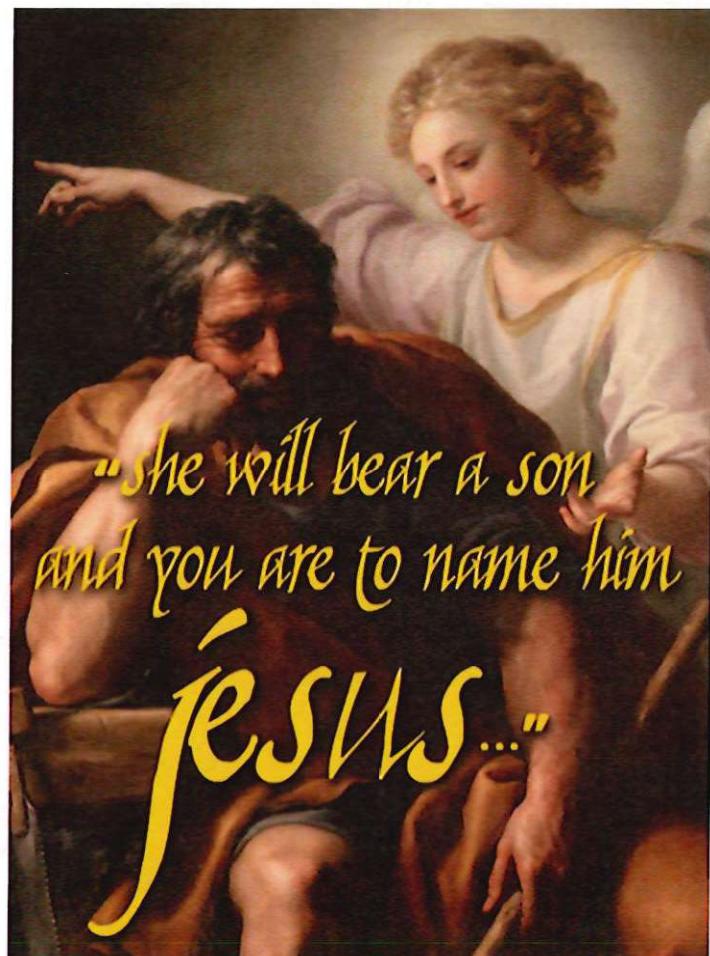
Matthew also assigns him a new name: “*Emmanuel*.” He knows that Jesus has not been given that name by society, the government or any army. The name is shocking, absolutely new, and means “*God with us*,” a name that only we who believe in Jesus attribute to him as his due. God is with us, blesses us, and saves us.

The first Christian generations bore the name of Jesus imprinted in their hearts. They repeat it again and again. They are baptized in his name, they gather to pray in his name. For Matthew, it is an ardent synthesis of his faith. For St. Paul, there is nothing bigger. According to one of the earliest Christian hymns: “*before the name of Jesus every knee must bend*.”

As we move forward through the 21st century, we must learn to take the name of Jesus in a new way – with affection and love, with renewed faith, in a spirit of conversion. With his name on our lips and in our hearts we can live and die with hope.

Blessed Christmas to all and may your travel these days be safe.

Fr. Glenn & Fr. Frank



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

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

- December 21 NO CLASS ANY GRADE
- December 21 Christmas play grades K-5 at the end of 11:30 Mass
- December 28 NO CLASS ANY GRADE
- January 5 Classes Resume

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY AND
NEW YEAR'S DAY

December 24th at 5:00 PM

December 24th at 10:00 PM

December 25th at 10:00 AM

January 1, 2026, at 8:30 AM

January 1, 2026, at 7:00 PM

OFFICE CLOSING OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARS

All church offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th thru Sunday, January 4th. Offices will reopen on Monday, January 5th.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Christmas Eve , Wednesday, Dec. 24 th at 5:00pm	Mary Killingsworth	Ed Robich Monica Hanrahan Bonnie Smith Dave & Jack Pringle	Mat Macchia – HU Mona Macchia Ed Grober	VOLUNTEER	Alexa & Antonio Macchia
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24 th at 10:00pm	Diane Salatino	Mike Bartolo Gary Salatino DJ Puskar Aiden Puskar	Mary Ellen Doutt – HU Brian & Deb Biggins Pat Miller	VOLUNTEER	Brigid Dach
Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25 th at 10:00am	Donna & John Pavlovich	Frank Langosh Howard Fagan MaryAnn Palanti	Jeff Creveling – HU Jacob Bayuk Don & Darlene Kotuby	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

There are Christmas gifts in the back sacristy for all of the ministries of the parish, including: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar Servers, Greeters, Catechists, Funeral Group, Environment Prep. ie: (Flowers, Candles, Hosts, Wine, Gardening), Music Ministry, Counters, & Food Pantry Volunteers, Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council, Cooks who make dinner for the priests, & faithful Bulletin Stuffers.

Thank you for all you do here at Good Shepherd!



GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

This month, we are collecting
Tuna and Egg Noodles



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

ARS FUNDRAISER

This is the last weekend for the Altar Rosary Society Lottery Fundraiser. Cost is \$5 per ticket and is based on the 3-digit number the whole month of Jan. 2026.



There was a funeral Mass for *Eugene Schilling* on Wednesday, December 17th. Please keep his wife, Patricia, and his family in your prayers.

with deepest sympathy

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

People often think of The Twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival.

Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that lasts for **days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 4 -the Day of Epiphany** - when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi.

From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.

Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the torah (Law) the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal.5).
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

ADVENT

Advent
Angels
Blessings
Candle
Carols
Celebrate
Christmas
Countdown
Decorations
Emmanuel
Faith
Family
Gifts
Hope
Jesus
Joy
Light
Love
Manger
Nativity
Peace
Prayer

WORD SEARCH: LOCATE THE VOCABULARY LISTED BELOW IN THE GRID, SEARCHING IN ALL DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING BACKWARDS.



Prepare
Prophecy
Rejoice
Shepherds
Spirit
Stories
Traditions
Wreath



RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT THANK YOU

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! "Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, proving the support they need.

HELP NEEDED

Housekeeper Wanted:

Fr. John Hindman and Fr. Frank DiCristina are in need of a housekeeper one day every two weeks. Work would entail dusting and cleaning.

If you are interested, please contact Fr. John at 951-236-8024.

Matthew Kelly books are in the Gathering Space. Please take one!

HELP NEEDED

Retired teacher & lector needs help with some housekeeping and organizing for 2 half days a week. \$20-25 per hour. Call 724-981-1954. (Mary Liz Moroco)



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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.