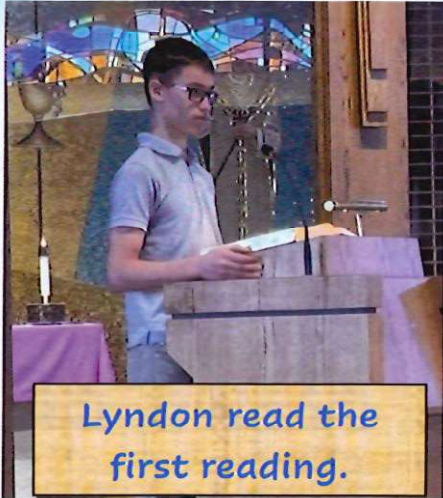
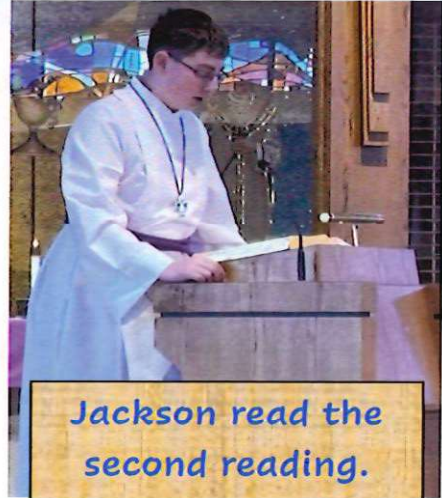


Church of the Good Shepherd



Lyndon read the first reading.

Edge Students at the 11:30am Sunday Mass.



Jackson read the second reading.



Ava



Lyndon, Donovan, Rianne, Mackensie, Ava, Abby, Madison, Gabby, RJ, & Mason



Leah Ann Williams



Who could resist such a warm, Good Shepherd Welcome, as this?



Thanks Edge students! Your presence here brightens our day.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 22, 2026

Week of March 23, 2026, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass
Monday, March 23rd - Fr. Bob Gielow/ Mass at 6:30pm
Tuesday, March 24th - Fr. Bob Gielow/ Mass at 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 25th - Fr. Bob Gielow/ Mass at 6:30pm
Thursday, March 26th - Passion Narratives this week
Friday, March 27th - Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm
Saturday, March 28th

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	March 15, 2026
# of Registered Families	614
# of Envelopes Used	184
Attendance at Mass	541
Attendance Online 03/15	285
Offertory Collection	\$7,007.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,189.50
Children's / Easter Flowers	\$4.00 / \$661.00
Ash Wed. / Christmas Gift	\$5.00 / \$5.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, March 23 rd at 6:30pm	Helen Huff	Craig & Debbie Cox
Tuesday, March 24 th at 6:30pm	Poor Souls	Marie Flickinger
Wednesday, March 25 th at 6:30pm	Robert Doolin	John & Donna Pavlovich
Thursday, March 26 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Friday, March 27 th at 8:30am	Jack Bennet	John & Donna Pavlovich
Saturday, March 28 th at 6:00pm	Jeffrey Staph	Tom Schratz
Palm Sunday, March 29 th at 9:00am	Pat Graney	Family
Palm Sunday, March 29 th at 11:30am	Evelyn Moore	Sister & Niece

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, March 28 th at 6:00pm	Brian Rogers Nora Songer	James Sobey Frank Langosh Brian Rogers Cliff Sederland	Mary Ellen Doult – HU Brian & Deb Biggins	Jean Colella	Hadley & Reagan Simmons
Palm Sunday, March 29 th at 9:00am	Diane Salatino Diane Flamino	Gary Salatino Christine Schwarz Tom Sokolak Bonnie Smith	Patrick Miller – HU Vicki Miller Neil Hosick	Judy Selenchik	Vincent Miller
Palm Sunday, March 29 th at 11:30am	Mary Killingsworht Erin Borowicz	Aiden Puskar DJ Puskar Rudy Koraus Arlene Repko	Pam Esposito – HU Raymond Repko Don Kemerer	VOLUNTEER	James Maynard

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



FROM OUR PASTOR



“The body will surely die, but the living spirit of Christ will lift us up body and soul.”
(paraphrase of Romans 8:11)

When we pray the “Hail Mary” the conclusion of the prayer should cause us to pause momentarily every time. We ask the Mother of God to hold us in her hands at two singular moments in our lives: now and when we die. Why? “Now” is easy – it’s the moment of decision; the active hour in which change is possible. We can’t move the past one inch. We can’t manipulate the future until it arrives. The only time under our jurisdiction when we are free to act is NOW.

The hour of our death is the other moment we hope for the comforting presence of Christ’s mother. It’s a significant time, perhaps more so because it comes only once. You and I may have botched a long line of “NOWs”, but Christianity holds out the possibility of the final “yes” after a lifetime of “no.” So, it’s solid spiritual guidance to entreat the Mother of Jesus to attend to us in that last hour of grace and guide us to repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

All of that is Christian code about death and what comes after – to enjoy that comes with a minor prerequisite of giving up the ghost. That’s why we call the story of Jesus “Good News.” It’s the only story we know where death has a happy ending in restored life. . .

This all seems like a long winding road from the Hail Mary to today’s gospel story of a new life for Lazarus. When we think of him, we also may be reminded of two other gospel characters with the same experience: the daughter of Jarius and the son of the widow of Nain. All three accounts remind us that the ultimate restoration is coming for us all.

This was not happy news for the religious authorities who were contemporaries of Jesus and Lazarus; they don’t want tombs opened and dead raised. It never serves the establishment to have solid, fixed principles in motion – they counted on the dead staying dead. Death, like gravity, is only a useful concept if it doesn’t change.

Reading John’s account today reminds us how Jesus directs his questions to his audience, not just Martha and Mary – especially to us who are loitering around the story twenty centuries later. When Martha makes her declaration of faith in answer to Jesus’ question, “*Do you believe this?*” Her answer becomes the gold standard for all disciples: “*Yes, Lord I have come to believe you are the Christ, the Son of God...*” Most of us are only beginning to live into that response by degrees. Our individual journeys with Christ on that road has its valleys and peaks and we should not fear the stench of the tomb (as Martha cautions us).

On that road, we can’t do better than raise a prayer for guidance about those two pivotal moments – now and at the hour of death. Being able to make the declaration Martha does is important. But saying those words and not believing them means we will most likely fail to embody them. If our hearts are not in that profession, we may find that our treasure lies elsewhere.

What will we do when Jesus calls out our names and invites us to “come forth?” Some will hear nothing to disturb their slumber. The secret that believers know is that if we obey the call to new life NOW, nothing will bind us to the grave “*at the hour of our death.*”

We are called out of the grave of every sinful situation by the Lord of forgiveness. We are rescued at every wrong turn down a blind avenue and restored to the way of life. Such freedom can be frightening. Many prefer the binding chains of fundamentalism to keep them from exercising this great liberty. But a liberated woman, a free man, will know how to obey the call to walk out of the grave and leave death behind them for good.

“Unbind them. Let them go free!”

Fr. Frank/Fr. Glenn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar

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

March 22 Class all grades

March 29 Palm Sunday – Class all grades

Confirmation Class will pack food for the food pantry distribution during class.

April 5 Easter NO CLASS

April 11 Saturday First Communion Retreat
9am – 11am

April 12 Class all grades

April 19 Class all grades

April 25 Thursday Confirmation Mass at
Notre Dame 7:00pm

April 26 LAST CLASS

Becoming Catholic

Welcoming new Catholics. The parish community is invited to help welcome the new Catholics by participating in a card shower. Any card, homemade or store bought – Welcome, Hooray for You! Congratulations. Write out a card to any of our elect or candidates. You may wish to add a note about your faith journey. Place your card in the basket in the gathering space or give it to Lauren. **CARDS DUE BY SUNDAY MARCH 29.**

Please continue to pray for them.

Elect

Gavin Mathews

Cross Arbuckle

Mackensie Attiscano

Luke Baker

Ava Sellers

Gabby Foster

Candidates

Noah Bianco

Ashley

Baldsberger

Ainsley Cain

Joshua Dobbins

Bill Logan

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

Diocesan Assessment: \$52,074.00
Total Pledged as of 03/16/26: \$93,765.00
Total Paid as of 03/16/26: \$61,737.00
Surplus after Paid Assessment: \$9,663.00
Parish Project Goal: \$90,500.00
Surplus from 2025 CSA: \$37,419.24
Remains at Good Shepherd to be used toward roof replacement on Social Center / HVAC.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TOTALS

Diocesan Assessment: \$21,724.00
Total Pledged as of 03/17/26: \$35,162.00
Total Paid to date: \$29,152.00
Surplus after Paid Assessment: \$7,428.00
Remains at Our Lady of Fatima to complete the restoration of our Rectory and Office after our winter water disaster.

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



ATTENTION MINISTERS

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR
HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, &
THE 7:30AM EASTER SUNDAY MASS.
SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN THE
GATHERING SPACE.

**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

Men's Club March Communication

One of the defining features of our parish is the array of opportunities that exist beyond the pews to be active members of our community. One of those opportunities is the Men's Club. The Club is a vibrant group of men from the parish who meet and work on projects throughout the year to serve the needs of the parish and the community and have a lot of fun in the process. So, if you are looking for some meaningful things to do beyond the pew and to get to know some of the guys in the parish a bit more, we invite you to join us. We raised \$4000 last year and gave it all to worthy local charities. Wouldn't you like to join us and take part in making a difference in our parish and community? Join us at our next meeting on May 18th at 6:00 PM.

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
DATE: EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5
TIME: AFTER 9:00AMSS
PLACE: WEATHER PERMITTING
IN THE GRASSY AREA
BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE WEST MIDDLESEX SCHOOLS
INCLEMENT WEATHER: HUNT WILL BE HELD
IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILDING
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET
ALL CHILDREN WELCOME
TODDLERS TO GRADE 5 (AGE 12)**



**Parish Mission
Fr. Bob Gielow
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
Would you like to donate food items for
refreshments ?
call Deb Antonelli 724-730-6068
FREE Babysitting for ages
5 yrs to 10 yrs old**

**ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY WILL BE SELLING NON-STREAK CLEANING
WIPES BEFORE AND AFTER MASSES, MARCH 21 & 22. SAME LOW PRICE \$3.00**

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

\$16
Fried or Baked

\$13 Palacinke Dinner

TRY OUR FISH AND YOU'LL BE HOOKED
ANTONIUM (Sherman Ave. Entrance)
Hall is Handicap Accessible

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.

EMPTY BOWLS
Thursday, April 23rd
from 4-7pm
Hickory VFW Post 6166
5550 E State St.
Hermitage, PA
Have questions about the event? Contact Patty at 724-981-0353 ext. 103

ST. MICHAEL PARISH PROUDLY PRESENTS
MAKE US BELIEVERS PASSION PLAY

MARCH 27 @ 7:30 PM
MARCH 28 @ 6 PM

ST. MICHAEL PARISH • LATERAN HALL
61 N 3RD ST • GREENVILLE, PA

25th Anniversary!

BOWL-A-THON
PRINCE OF PEACE CENTER

April 19, 2026 • 10 Pin Alley, Hermitage • 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

\$35 individual contribution includes:

- three games
- event t-shirt
- door prize
- shoe rental
- lunch
- entry

Sponsors, bowlers, & more info:
www.princeofpeacecenter.org/2026-bowlathon

OR

We look forward to seeing you there!
Questions or more info?
724-346-5777



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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.

The Church of the Good Shepherd invites you to attend
The Celebration of the Paschal Triduum and Holy Week Events.



The celebration begins on Holy Thursday,
April 2nd at 7:00 pm with the
EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Adoration will take place
after Mass until 11:00 pm.



The Triduum continues on Good Friday,
April 3rd at 3:00 pm with the
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION,
including the Veneration of the Cross and Communion.
Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6:30 pm.



On Holy Saturday, April 4th at 12:00 noon,
Easter Food will be blessed in the Church.

The Triduum comes to an end with the

EASTER VIGIL

which begins at 8:30 pm on Holy Saturday, April 4th.



EASTER SUNDAY MASSES are scheduled at

7:30 am (no music), 9:00 am, and 11:30 am.

*Your presence will serve to confirm the presence of Christ in the assembly as we
gather to celebrate those feasts which are most important and central to the Church.*

We look forward to being with you!



March 29, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Between Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday, parishioners in the Diocese of Erie are asked to give generously to the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land.

This collection is a most important source of support for Christians in the Holy Land. Christians continue to be impacted especially hard with the war between Hamas and Israel as well as the instability caused by events in Lebanon and Syria. The money collected helps the Franciscans and others to minister in parishes, provide Catholic education, and aid the Catholic community with housing, food, health care and employment.

Christians in the Holy Land have great need of your prayers and financial help. The wars, unrest, and instability there have been especially hard on them. Please take this opportunity to reach out to those Christians who suffer persecution and hardship in the very land where Jesus lived.

I wish you and yours a blessed and joyful celebration of the Easter Triduum.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Scan to give

