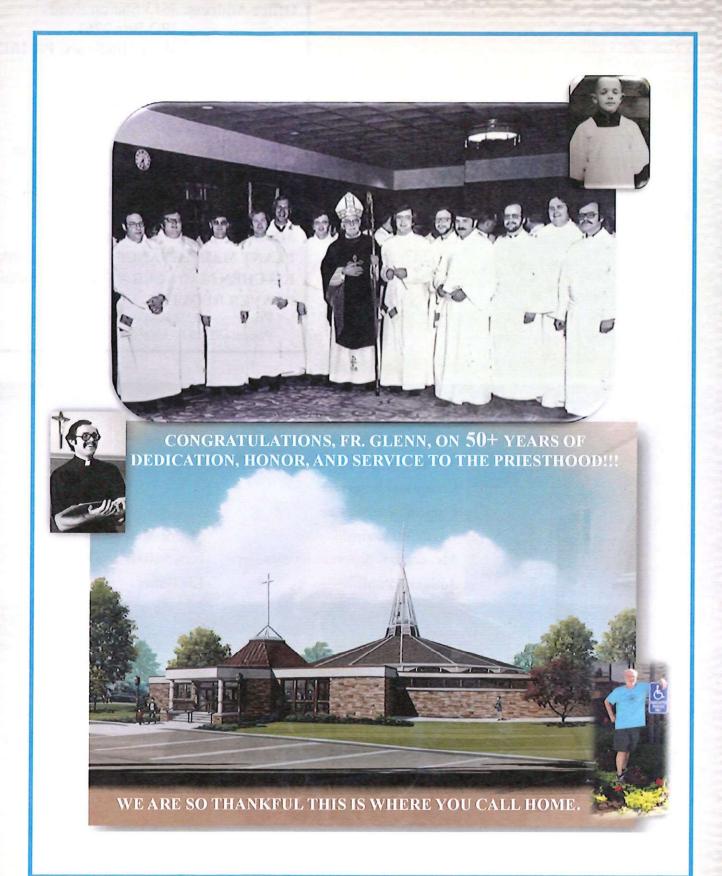
## Church of the Good Shepherd



### TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

### Week of September 7, 2025, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass Monday, September 8th Priest retreat all week

Tuesday, September 9th

Wednesday, September 10th

Thursday, September 11th

Friday, September 12th

Saturday, September 13th

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

COLLECTION	08/31/2025
# of Registered Families	589
# of Envelopes Used	169
Attendance at Mass	516
Attendance Online 8/31	247
Offertory Collection	\$4,912.50
Loose Offertory	\$1,129.00
Assumption	\$30.00
Latin America	\$30.00
Catholic Education	\$60.00

### **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

Camone Badeanon	400.00		
Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions Requested By		
Monday, September 8th at 8:30am	Communion Service		
Tuesday, September 9th at 8:30am	Communion Service		
Wednesday, September 10 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE		
Thursday, September 11th at 8:30am	Communion Service		
Friday, September 12th at 8:30am	Communion Service		
Saturday, September 13th at 6:00pm	Larry Wauzzinski	Mr. & Mrs. Don Gigler	
Sunday, September 14th at 9:00am	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Rogers	Ken & Barbara Rogers	
Sunday, September 14th at 11:30am	Julianne Puhl	Liz Bauer	
LITURGICAL MINISTRY LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC USHERS MINISTERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS ALTAR SERVERS	

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm	Lyndon & Michael Cain	Charlene Cain Frank Langosh Cliff Sederland Fran Deeb	Paul Bauer – HU Kathy Bauer Colleen Pickens	Jean Colella	Rianne Cain
Sunday, Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> at <b>9</b> :00am	Diane Salantino	Gary Salatino Ron Adams Bonnie Smith Christine Schwarz	Bob Devlin – HU Don & Darlene Kotuby	Tom Graney	Vincent Miller
Sunday, Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30am	Jennifer Muir	Ted George Arlene Repko Rudy Koraus Mary Lu Walters	Pam Esposito - HU Raymond Repko Maurice Igou	VOLUNTEER	Madison McClelland



## <u>The Marginal Catholic: Challenge, Don't Crush</u>

Jesus tells us today that half measures will never do. Just because we stay within the lines of moral issues and meet the minimum requirements of church membership, the idea of being "good enough" isn't good enough. Being the Body of Christ makes us sharers in the life of Jesus – and he was never known to do things halfway.

Today, that isn't the popular answer, I know. Thirty some years ago, a priest from the Diocese of Syracuse, Joseph Champlin wrote a thoughtful book, popular among seminarians and people engaged in parish ministry. Its title was The Marginal Catholic: Challenge, Don't Crush. He cautioned parish ministers to go slowly, invite warmly, and back off when it comes to ecclesiastical rule-enforcement. He points out we choose between representing "the cruel or compassionate church," in parish life.

Certainly, we're all in favor of compassion here. Challenging people too far ahead of where they are, could be a compelling excuse for some to bail from the path of righteousness altogether. But it is perhaps more dangerous to give the impression that Christianity has an agreeable comfort zone and it's right where they happen to be seated. The satisfied Christian courts disaster. The plain truth is: Not being "bad" isn't the goal. Being a disciple of Jesus is the goal, and that's a lot harder.

Consider the person about to construct a tower with only a vague idea of the bottom line. That tower won't get built and it will garner a few laughs when people see the deep empty foundation hole year after year along the beaten path. We've all seen abandoned worksites here in Mercer County which bear witness to poor planning. Ambition often doesn't amass the cost of reality.

If our intention is to follow Jesus, we have to be careful about the dimensions of the plan. What does it cost to follow Jesus? Chances are you can see a symbol of that from where you're sitting: the cross. Being a disciple is an expensive proposition. It costs everything you have and are. Jesus says today, "Renounce your possessions," and he's not talking about tithing! Sounds like he expects the whole enchilada.

Why is the price so high? Because the stakes are just as high. Our fleshy shell isn't for keeps. It's a collapsible tent, worn down in a couple decades. The author of Psalms calls our life "a watch in the night." Come and gone. And the life of the body doesn't only corrupt over time, but weakens because of our often-depleting virtue. We stand to lose *everything worth having* if we're not willing to pit *everything we have* as ballast against corruption. Jesus isn't asking us to throw our stuff away. He's begging us not to throw our lives away. So, take a few moments and consider your blueprints. What are you building, and what are you willing to spend?

Check your balance, then roll up your sleeves.

Fr. Frank and Fr. Glenn

ERIE DIOCESE PRIESTS RETREAT
Fr. Glenn will be on retreat from
September 8 through 12 at Villa Maria.
No Masses are planned but Communion
Services will be conducted as scheduled.

### Save the Date!

Parish Pastoral Council Elections Nominations due <u>THIS WEEKEND</u>. Election Days are September 20th/21st

### SPECIAL THANKS to

Bobosky Concrete and Paving 1043 Marr Rd. Pulaski, PA 16143 (724-510-1143)

for the awesome sealing and striping of the parking lot. What a wonderful gift!!

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Grades, K-9, start Religious Education next week. Class time is Sunday from 10:00 AM -11:15 AM

Confirmation Parent meeting will be on Sunday September 28th, during class time from 10:00AM-11:15AM. Students and parents will attend the session together in the social hall.

To Good Shepherd parishioners, from the Religious Education office.

Please be aware that Religious Education classes will end at 11:15 and parents and children will be in the parking lot.

Use extra caution.
Classes begin Sunday, September 14th.
Thank you.

Children's Liturgy of the Word formally begins on Sunday September 28. Look for the candle on the altar. Father will invite all children ages 3 – 3rd Grade to participate.

### Parish Picnic Help

Teen Shepherds are being asked to volunteer at the parish picnic. Any student in grades 6-12 may volunteer. This a great way for younger students to begin working on their Confirmation service hours.



Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a family size side dish to feed 10-12 people and/ or a dessert. Bring lawn chairs if you would like.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help. Sign-up sheets are in the gathering space.

Come and join us for a day of food, fun and fellowship!!!!



#### BEST EVER SENIOR CITIZEN JOKE

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax.

Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then, "he said with a deep sigh......

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."



MEN'S CLUB MEETING MONDAY, SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL. ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

### GOOD SHEPHERD PANTRY, MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE This month, we are collecting Pasta Sauce in plastic jars and cans. "Please no glass jars" 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 CAN YOU PASTA SAUCE PLEASE?

DON'T EAT ALONE ... EARLY THANKSGIVING MEAL THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND at 5:00 PM in the Social Hall WE'LL PROVIDE THE **TURKEY; YOU PROVIDE** THE FIXINGS! Sign up sheets will be out next





- Our Mission Co-op Speaker, Sister Joyce, from the Missionary Daughters of the Compassionate Lord Jesus, will be speaking at ALL MASSES on September 20 & 21. We will be taking up a physical second collection at all Masses.
- Catholic Education Collection Sept. 20 & 21.
- Anointing of the Sick will take place on October 19th at the 11:30 AM Mass.

### GOOD SHEPHERD MEN'S CLUB IS **SPONSORING** A CASINO BUS TRIP

TO THE MEADOWS IN WASHINGTON, PA. WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9TH WHERE: LEAVING FROM GOOD

SHEPHERD PARKING LOT AT 9AM SHARP. LEAVING AT 4:30PM FROM THE MEADOWS **BUS TRIP IS APPROXIMATELY 1 1/2 HOURS** 

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza prompts concern from all people of goodwill. As Catholics, we especially are called by Christ to care for the suffering and the needy.

Pastoral concern has prompted the bishops of the United States to take up a collection for the assistance of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas. Many are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions.

I ask you to give generously to this special collection, held in our parishes on the weekend of September 6-7, 2025. Funds received will be passed on to Catholic Relief Services. This group has a long-standing relationship with the Catholic Church in the region, which allows them to provide humanitarian relief and medical assistance quickly and efficiently.

Thank you for doing what you can to support our suffering brothers and sisters in Gaza and surrounding areas. I join with you in praying for peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL



### **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.

### **BIZARRO** By Wayno and Piraro

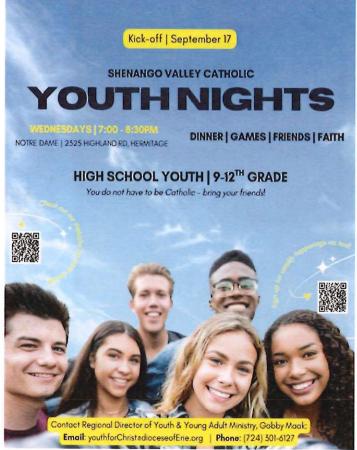
BIZARRO.COM





### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Good Shepherd Church Monday, September 29 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. church hall 3613 Sharon Road West Middlesex





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Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

September 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd West Middlesex, PA

### One Minute **Meditations**

### St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

### Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them-through a kind of divine alchemy-into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

### Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 - was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

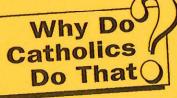
With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear." Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.



## Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10,

referencing angels who "behold the face of [His] Father"—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

## Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.



## Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

### Q & A

## Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is "a compassionate high priest" (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

### Feasts & 🗱 💿 Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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### \*\* BY APPOINTMENT ONLY \*\*

When: September 27, 2025, 8:30 am -12:30 pm

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3613 Sharon Rd.

West Middlesex, PA 16159

Screenings conducted by Lynn A. Colaiacovo, M.D. and Brooke E. Breitenbach, PA-C Screenings will take approximately 15 minutes and will be in private examining rooms

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+Space is limited, so call soon to make your appointment.