

Church of the Good Shepherd



PARISH MISSION WITH FR. BOB GIELOW

WHERE: GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

**WHEN: Monday, March 23rd, Tuesday, March 24th, &
Wednesday, March 25th**

TIME: 6:30PM

MISSION THEME: "His Mission is Our Mission"

Refreshments after each Mass/talk

in the Social Hall

Would you like to donate food items for refreshments?

Call Deb Antonelli at 724-730-6068

FREE Babysitting for ages 5yrs to 10yrs old.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 15, 2026

Week of March 16, 2026, Calendar of Events

- Rosary** 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass
Monday, March 16th - Men's Club Meeting at 6pm
Tuesday, March 17th
Wednesday, March 18th - Penance Service 6:00pm Good Shepherd
Thursday, March 19th - Passion Narratives this week
Friday, March 20th - Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm
Saturday, March 21st

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 8, 2026
# of Registered Families	609
# of Envelopes Used	202
Attendance at Mass	614
Attendance Online 03/08	343
Offertory Collection	\$7,585.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,300.00
Children /Ash Wednesday	\$2.00 / \$30.00
Christmas Gift / Easter Flower	\$2.00 / \$90.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, March 16 th at 8:30am	Patty Bell	Ed Robich
Tuesday, March 17 th at 8:30am	Maggie Ann McDermott	John & Donna Pavlovich
Wednesday, March 18 th	NO MASS	
Thursday, March 19 th at 8:30am	Stephen Robich	Son, Ed Robich
Friday, March 20 th at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Saturday, March 21 st at 6:00pm	Georgiana Klamut	Family
Sunday, March 22 nd at 9:00am	Eugene Schilling	Martha Wieland
Sunday, March 22 nd at 11:30am	Marcie Mondoc	Sandra & Barry Kimmel

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, March 21 st at 6:00pm	Diane Salatino	Gary Salatino Michael Drda Fran Deeb David Pringle	John Moroco – HU Jody Drda Cyndee Adamo	Cathy Moroco	Alexa & Antonio Macchia
Sunday, March 22 nd at 9:00am	Ken Rogers	Ken Rogers Ron Adams Tom Hubert Mary Ann Palanti	Ed Grober – HU Mary Anderson Jeff Creveling	Amy Hubert	Andrew David
Sunday, March 22 nd at 11:30am	Erin Borowicz	Erin Borowicz Ann U'Halie Lisa Dach Beth Garrett	Deb Sokolak – HU Raquel Collins Maurice Igou	VOLUNTEER	Luke & Jackson Seelbaugh

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX

FROM OUR PASTOR



“Isn’t this the one....?” “No, it just looks like him.”

If the Church didn’t give us Lent, we’d probably have to invent it. Could be that we might also come to spare some compassion for those who don’t have an annual season of reflection on themes as human as they are forbidding: desert, thirst, the need for rescue, darkness, suffering and death. These shadowy components of our experience can’t be avoided and must be acknowledged, perhaps even befriended. They are companion pieces to another set of liturgical themes that we strap ourselves to during the winter: anticipation, hope, light, joy and birth. We celebrate that other season with eagerness and thoughts of a festival. This season, however, we observe more carefully, tentatively, on tiptoe. Song and carol are for Advent; Lent seems to be a time carved out of silence.

This week we consider the dark valley that unusually finds us without fear. In *Ephesians* we descend into a darkness, that is, ourselves. And to go a bit further, we are not in darkness; we *are* darkness – until we become light by sharing in the life of Christ.

I don’t think many of us need to be convinced of our darkness. We know deep down that we miss the mark of love that is so clearly defined in the scriptures. We don’t need to review the catalogue of our thoughts very far back to find one that makes us ashamed. We’re also clearly aware of the cultural gloom that wraps us on all sides and seeks to penetrate our outlook: cynicism, the political rhetoric of suspicion, hostility toward those who are “other,” or a mere but spiritually fatal indifference. How do we escape this darkness and step into the warming and redeeming light?

Simply, seek Jesus. We come into the presence of the only man whose very spit is a blessing instead of a curse. Jesus turns mud into medicine, a meal on the table into everlasting life. If he can do all that, he can surely turn this world’s darkness – and our own personal darkness – into unending light. The reason we come together in his name is because we profess that truth. Profession of faith isn’t the same as trusting and believing what we say, of course. That takes a lifetime of decisions small and big. But professing faith is the start of embracing it, being penetrated by sacred word and sacramental action deep down until the dark valley within is ablaze with hope and divine promise.

“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” the former blind man’s neighbors ask. Some say, *“It is,”* and others say, *“No, it just looks like him.”* Both are right. When we give up our darkness in favor of the light, we are not who we used to be at all.

Embrace the light! Fr. Frank & Fr. Glenn



MEN’S EMMAUS RETREAT

In less than two weeks the Men’s Emmaus retreat in Bethel Park at St. John XXIII Parish will take place from Friday March 20 – Sunday March 22. Please call Good Shepherd (724-528-3539) to register and for information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Calendar CLASS TIME IS FROM 10:00AM - 11:15AM

March 15 Class all grades.
March 22 Class all grades
March 29 Palm Sunday – Class all grades
April 5 Easter NO 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.

<u>Elect</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
Gavin Mathews	Noah Bianco
Cross Arbuckle	Ashley
Mackensie Attiscano	Baldsberger
Luke Baker	Ainsley Cain
Ava Sellers	Joshua
Gabby Foster	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 03/09/26: \$83,470.00
Total Paid as of 03/09/26: \$57,267.00
Surplus after Assessment: \$5,193.00
Parish Project Goal: \$90,500.00
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 03/09/26 \$35,062.00
Total Paid as of 03/09/26 \$29,112.00
Surplus after Assessment \$7,388.00
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.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

It's time to send in your requested dates that you are **NOT** available in **May, June and July**. I am working on the next schedule now.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

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

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



**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.
Last month's total collections:

Pasta – 320 boxes

Sauce – 215 jars

Misc. – 53 items

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 MEETING

There will be a Men's Club Meeting on Monday, March 16th at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall. All men of the parish are welcome!

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

WILL BE SELLING NON-STREAK CLEANING WIPES BEFORE AND AFTER MASSES, MARCH 14 & 15, 21 & 22. SAME LOW PRICE \$3.00

SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN THE GATHERING SPACE FOR VOLUNTEERING AT MASSES FOR FR. BOB GIELOW. MASSES ARE ON MARCH 23RD, 24TH, & 25TH AT 6:30PM.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



❖ **HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND**

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7PM.

ADORATION FOLLOWING UNTIL 11PM.



❖ **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD**
LITURGY AT 3PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 6:30PM



❖ **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH**

NOON – BLESSING OF THE BASKETS
EASTER VIGIL AT 8:30PM



❖ **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH**

MASSES AT 7:30AM (NO MUSIC), 9AM, & 11:30AM (WITH MUSIC).

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

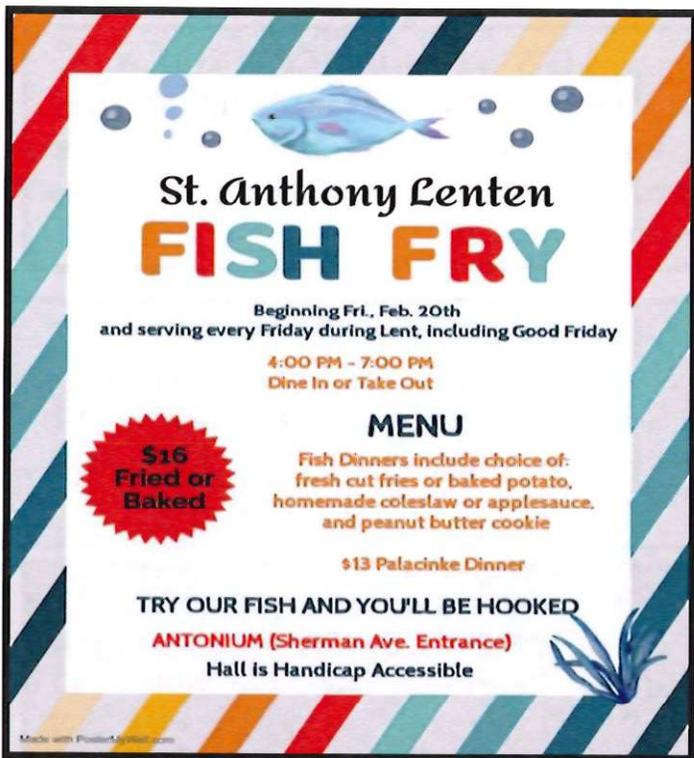
**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
DATE: EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5
TIME: AFTER 9:00AM
PLACE: WEATHER PERMITTING
IN THE GRASSY AREA**

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)**





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

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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.

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!

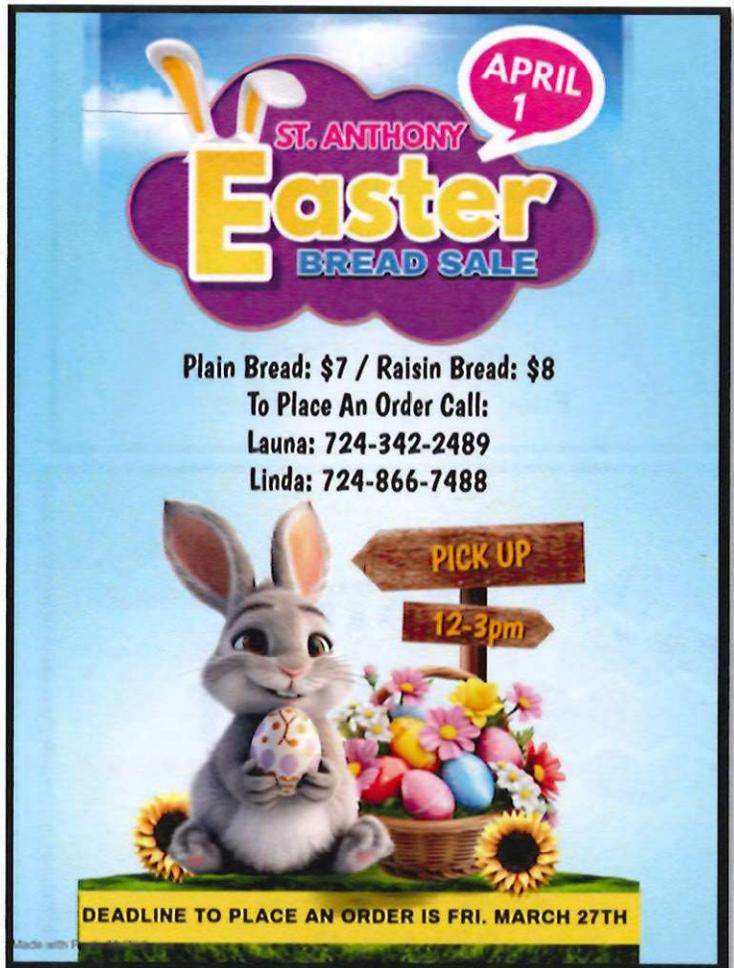
Please contact the parish office if you are able to donate a raffle basket or if you can cook Italian cookies.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH PROUDLY PRESENTS
MAKE US BELIEVERS PASSION PLAY

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



ST. MICHAEL PARISH • LATERAN HALL
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APRIL 1

ST. ANTHONY
Easter
BREAD SALE

Plain Bread: \$7 / Raisin Bread: \$8
To Place An Order Call:
Launa: 724-342-2489
Linda: 724-866-7488

PICK UP
12-3pm

DEADLINE TO PLACE AN ORDER IS FRI. MARCH 27TH

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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.



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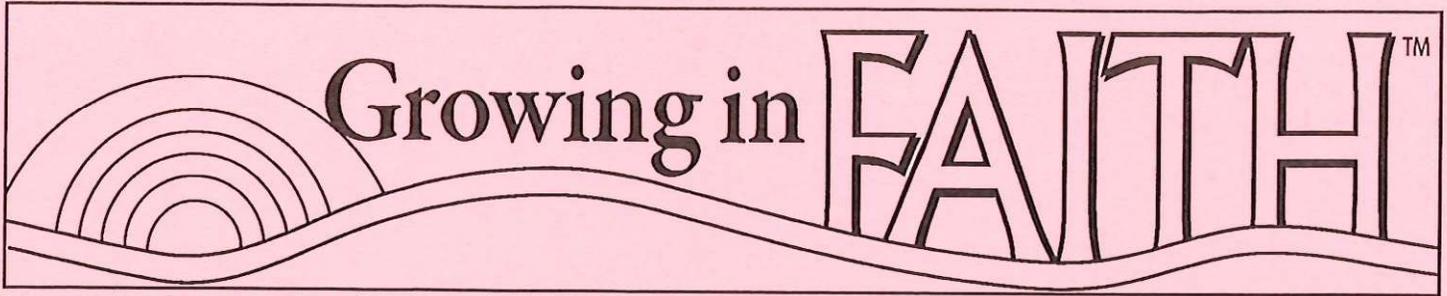
PARISHIONERS REGISTRATION FORM

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.



Church of the Good Shepherd
West Middlesex, PA

One Minute Meditations

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God's response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

"[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love..." — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

Practice trust. *"Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?"* (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, "Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands." Trust grows through repetition.

Refocus your heart. Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

Create quiet. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God is the friend of silence." Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

Give rather than acquire. Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

Choose mercy. Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets' call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God's plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, "God is at work at all times; every moment is 'God's time'." The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

God works in uncertain moments. The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist's arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

God draws close. Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God's grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God's invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew's account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus' trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father's will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God's mercy. In Christ's willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483). Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Q & A Does repeated failure change how God loves me?

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, "He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness." His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)