

# Church of the Good Shepherd



## Snowmageddon 2026 – January 25

This parish pulled together to make sure Sunday Masses were available for the brave few who ventured out on Sunday morning. Thanks to all who came, shoveled, lectored, ushered, were Eucharistic ministers, musicians, and completed other tasks on Sunday. May God Bless you! Special thanks to Fr. Ray for providing us with words of wisdom.

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

### Week of February 2, 2026, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass  
Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pastoral Council Meeting 6PM  
Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – Food Pantry / Reconciliation Meeting 6PM  
Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Altar Rosary Society Meeting w/ Rosary beginning at 6PM.  
Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – First Friday Adoration & Benediction  
Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

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

COLLECTION	Jan. 25, 2026
# of Registered Families	599
# of Envelopes Used	82
Attendance at Mass	239
Attendance Online 1/25	407
Offertory Collection	\$2,688.00
Loose Offertory	\$314.00
Catholic Communication	\$325.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am	Jane Lindstedt	Ed Robich
Tuesday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am	Tim & Kevin Gilfoyle	Kathy & Paul Bauer
Wednesday, February 4 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	NO MASS	
Thursday, February 5 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	For Our Parishioners	
Friday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30am	Poor Souls	Marie Flickinger
Saturday, February 7 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm	Shirley Gwin	Dale & Mary Ellen Doutt
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00am	Marcie Mondoc	Frank & Jean Fetsko
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30am	Russell (Bud) Warner	Family

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm	Nora Songer	Frank Langosh Ed Robich Gary Salatino James Sobey	Mat Macchia – HU Mona Macchia Cyndee Adamo	Connie Titus	Alexa & Antonio Macchia
Sunday, Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00am	Bonnie Smith	Bonnie Smith Tom Sokolak Mary Ann Palanti Diane O'Rourke	Patrick Miller – HU Darlene & Don Kotuby	Jean Colella	Andrew David
Sunday, Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30am	Mary Killingsworth	Beth Garrett Judy Miller Rudy Koraus Mary Lu Walters	Deb Sokolak – HU Mary Killingsworth Racquel Collins	VOLUNTEER	Luke & Jackson Seelbaugh

### Church of the Good Shepherd

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MUSIC DIRECTOR – Greg Hansley

PLANT MAINTENANCE – Gary Wojtalik

KITCHEN MANAGER – Michelle Whalen

PRAAYER REQUEST

Email: [prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com](mailto:prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com)

Phone: (724)977-3369

# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WEST MIDDLESEX, PA



Meditations on the Gospels  
for Year A.  
*“Following in the Footsteps  
of Jesus”* by Jose A. Pagola



## The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12A  
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted  
because of righteousness, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you,  
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of  
evil against you because of me.*

*Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward  
in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the  
prophets who were before you”.*

When Jesus climbed the mountain and sat down to announce the Beatitudes, there was a crowd in that environment, but only the disciples came to him to better hear his message. What do we, disciples of Jesus, hear today when we come to Jesus?

Blessed are the “*poor in spirit*” who know how to live with little but always trusting in God. Blessed is a church poor in spirit; it will have fewer problems because it will be more attentive to the needy and live the gospel more freely. The kingdom of heaven is hers.

Happy are “*the meek*” who empty their hearts of resentment and aggression. Blessed is a church full of meekness. It will be a gift to this world full of violence. She will inherit the promised land.

Blessed are those who “*weep*” for their sins and sufferings. With them we can create a better and more dignified world. Blessed is a church that mourns for her errors, because she will be on the road to conversion. One day she will be consoled by God.

Blessed are those who “*hunger and thirst for justice*”, those who have not lost the desire to be more just nor the desire to make the world more decent. Blessed is the church that passionately seeks God’s kingdom and His righteousness. She will nurture the best of the human spirit. One day her longing will be satisfied.

Happy are “*the merciful*” who act, work and live moved by compassion. They are those on earth, who most resemble the Father in heaven. Blessed is the church from which God has torn out the heart of stone and given it a heart of flesh. She will receive mercy.

Blessed are those who “*persecuted for justice*” respond with meekness to injustices and offenses. They help us to overcome evil with good. Blessed is the church when persecuted because she follows Jesus. Hers is the kingdom of heaven.

WELCOME BACK, FR. GLENN!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Religious Education Calendar

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

- **February 4 Wednesday,**  
**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting 6pm**
- February 8 Class all grades
- **February 15 NO CLASS ANY GRADE**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**

#### Themes for Student Spaghetti Dinner Raffle baskets

- Grades K -1 – movie night – examples
  - DVD, popcorn , candy
- Grade 2 – Pet basket – examples
  - pet toys, treats, combs. brushes
- Grade 3- Summer Fun – examples
  - sidewalk chalk, hula hoop, jump rope.
- Grades 4-5 Game night –
  - card games, Yahtzee, connect four.
- EDGE (grades 6,7,8) 3 baskets
  - lottery ticket, game night , snack

**NOTE: Edge is a large class you need only donate one item total – NOT one item for each basket**

- Confirmation (grades 9) coffee and tea

Please send your donations In by February 8.

### **Spaghetti Dinner Basket raffle**

Spaghetti dinner raffle baskets. The religious education classes will be making themed baskets for a basket raffle during the spaghetti dinner. Since our total number of students in religious education is eighty, we will also be taking raffle basket donations. Popular baskets include coffee, car care, and cooking. Use your imagination. Need more information call or email Lauren [religioused@goodshepherdwm.org](mailto:religioused@goodshepherdwm.org) 724-528.3539 EXT 6

How does the religious education use the money? The money is used for sacramental retreats, snacks, arts, and crafts supplies as well as VBS supplies. This parish is a great supporter of Religious Education. The catechists, teen shepherd leaders and Lauren are grateful and humbled by the parishioner's support. Thank you.



### HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP?

#### THE PASSION NARRATIVES

Beginning on the day after Ash Wednesday, Thursday, February 19 for four weeks, there will be a Scripture Study group focusing on the four Passion narratives in the New Testament – Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. Like our sessions on the Prophet Isaiah last year, we'll follow the same format on Thursdays: 10:30 – noon / 4:00 – 5:30 pm. Registration sheets will be available in the gathering space up until Ash Wednesday.

No book will be required, but common texts of each version will be available THE WEEK BEFORE THE SESSIONS BEGIN. There is no cost for the sample texts, but there is homework!

**Parish Spaghetti Dinner  
is Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> ,  
from 11 AM- 3 PM.**

#### ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

**Thursday, February 5, 2026,  
beginning with Rosary at 6pm.  
All women of the parish are  
welcome.**

# Spaghetti Dinner



**SUNDAY FEB. 15. 2026 11:00am-3:00pm**

**Advance Tickets: \$ 12 Adults/\$6 Children (12 and under)**

**Tickets at the Door:\$15 Adults /\$7 Children (12 and under)**

**Tickets available after Mass,  
beginning 1/ 17/2-26**

**TAKE OUT MEALS AVAILABLE**

Good Shepherd Church Social Hall

West Middlesex PA

*Proceeds to benefit Religious Education*

**Here are the Lottery Winners from the sales  
of Lottery Tickets for the Altar Rosary  
Society.**

Jan. 18. 461. \$100.00  
Lawrence Wells



Jan. 19. 030  
Amayah Smith

Jan. 20. 242  
M.P. Hanssen

Jan. 21. 816  
Cliff Sederland

Jan. 22. 406  
Robert Morris

Jan. 23. 845  
C. Adam

Jan. 24. 932  
M.P. Hanssen

**FOOD PANTRY  
DISTRIBUTION  
IS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 3:00 - 4:30 PM**



**FOOD PANTRY NEWS!  
2 BIG THANK YOU'S.**

**To volunteers who helped  
with the distribution  
of groceries on Feb. 3.**

**And a special *Thank you* to Mrs. Kirsten  
Kollar & students who helped with bagging  
this month's groceries.**

**GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD PANTRY  
"FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE"**



**PASTA AND SAUCE  
(no glass jars please)**

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

**ATTENTION MINISTERS  
OF THE CHURCH**

**The new schedule for Feb., Mar., and  
April has been emailed & for those who  
prefer a "hard copy", I have left some in the  
back Sacristy with your name on it.**

## RECENT/NEW REGISTRATIONS

If you have filled out the Parishioner's Registration Form on the back of the bulletin, we will send you a more complete form for you to complete.

This form can either be mailed back to us or dropped off in the collection basket or in person, in the Rectory office.

I will add your name and address for the envelope company to send you offertory envelopes. However, it may take them a while to send. In the meantime, please use a blank envelope or one in the pews. Your contribution will be credited once you registered with us.

Without a completed form that we send you, the small form from the bulletin is not enough to register you.

**Please feel free to take one of the Red Poinsettias in the Gathering Space, especially if you know one of our elderly or shut ins.**

## 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.

## Contribution Statements for Tax Purposes

If you wish to receive a statement of giving for your 2025 income tax records, please fill out the information below. Please return it to the parish office or by placing it in the mail or in the collection basket marked to the attention of the Parish Secretary.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Bartholomew Church Homemade Spaghetti Dinner

Join us for our Famous Homemade Pasta, Sauce & Meatballs!  
Ticket includes Dinner, Ice cream (eat-in only), Salad, & Bread

**Sunday, February 1 • Noon - 4pm  
311 W. Ridge Avenue, Sharpsville**

Adults \$12 • Kids 10 & under \$8 • Eat-in or take-out  
Advance purchase highly recommended; this all-homemade event will sell out, and door sales will be limited.

Tickets: call 724-962-7130,  
e-mail [secretary@saintbartholomews.com](mailto:secretary@saintbartholomews.com), or  
Buy Online at [www.saintbartholomews.com](http://www.saintbartholomews.com)

**PLUS: Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, 50/50 & Side Raffles**

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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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY WILL BE  
HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!  
BRING YOUR OLD PALMS IN  
AND PLACE THEM IN THE BIN  
SET UP IN THE GATHERING  
SPACE.**





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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.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2026

Church of the Good Shepherd  
West Middlesex, PA

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

### God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: "My darling child" (Jeremiah 31:20), "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43:4). "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9). "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends..." (John 15:13-14). "Do you love me?" (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety." Pope Benedict XVI

### "What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

Faith is relational, not informational. The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

Choose trust over control. "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by

offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

Share what you have received. A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary

*"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid...He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment." (Pope Leo XIV)*

zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

### Why Do Catholics Do That?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross.

### Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

## When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

**Practice kindness in thought:** When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

**Practice kindness in speech:** Before speaking, ask whether

your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

**Practice kindness in action:** Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God's hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God's way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it

promised a "painless" way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

**Q  
&  
A**

#### What to do with dryness in prayer

God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don't avoid them, but live them well.

**Ask why.** Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

**Remember the good times.** When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary's example, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

**Renew your "yes" daily.** Mary's consent to God's will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: *"Let it be done unto me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

### Feasts & Celebrations

**February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251).** Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

**February 18 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It's

also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

**February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297).** St. Margaret's conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

**February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter.** Today marks St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, the "seat" of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

#### Our Mission

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*)