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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

Pastor- Fr. Glenn Whitman • Secretary - Lisa Saltsgiver  
Religious Education Director - Lauren DeFelice • Music Director - Greg Hansley  
Email: prayerrequestsgswm@gmail.com • (724) 977-3369 Email: goodshepherd55@roadrunner.com  
(724) 528-3539 • www.goodshepherdwm.org • 3613 Sharon Road • PO Box 226 • West Middlesex, PA 16159



**Whoever lives the truth, comes to the light.**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 15th**

8:30 AM – John Murecko  
c/o Gloria Yokley

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16th**

8:30 AM – Poor Souls  
c/o Marie Flickinger

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17th**

7:00 PM – Chase Tyillian  
c/o Mary Jane Krivosh & Family

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18th**

8:30 AM – Patricia Dach  
c/o Mick & Toni Gallagher

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19th**

8:30 AM – Mike Cerni  
c/o Tommie Yourga

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20th**

6:00 PM – For Our Parishioners

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21st**

9:00 AM – Jack Bernat  
c/o Dr. Skip & Paula Booth  
11:30 AM – Irene Koncar  
c/o Ron Koncar & Family

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**E. MINISTERS**

3/20 6:00 pm Alexa Macchia

Monica Hanrahan  
Michael Drda

3/21 9:00 am Vincent Miller

Diane O'Rourke  
Patti Chupak  
DJ Puskar

11:30 am Brady Puskar

**LECTOR #1**

3/20 6:00 pm John Pavlovich

3/21 9:00 am Ken Rogers

11:30 am Erin Borowicz

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS**

3/20 6:00 pm Mat Macchia/Jody Drda  
Mary Ellen Doult/Volunteer

3/21 9:00 am Volunteer/Patrick Miller  
Ed Grober/Paula Miller

11:30 am Jim Burgoon/Volunteer  
Volunteer/Volunteer

**A MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL** was celebrated for Catherine Mary "Cathy" Sarvas this week. Prayers and sympathy of the parish are extended to her husband, James; sister, Cindy (Michael) Bartolo, brother-in-law, Norman Oliver, their family and friends. May Cathy rest in peace.

**THANK YOU** from Annette Morrison, Assistant Executive Director of the Prince of Peace Center. "We are writing to express our deepest thanks for your Christmas donation to Prince of Peace Center. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the support needed to continue our mission. Your support has played a key role in our success in providing a Christmas blessing for families in the community. We look forward to a continuing partnership with you."



**MARCH 14, 2021**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS Week/March 14, 2021**

**Sunday, March 14th**

Religious Ed Classes – Grades 1-11 (In-Person)

**Monday, March 15th**

9:15 - 10:15 am – I Heard God Laugh (Discussion Group)

**Wednesday, March 17th**

5:30 pm – I Heard God Laugh (Discussion Group)

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm – Zoom Meeting – I Heard God Laugh (Facilitator: Mary Pat Hanssen)

**Friday, March 19th**

7:00 PM – Stations of the Cross / Church

**COLLECTION – 3/7/21**

Number of Adult envelopes issued.....529  
Adult Offertory Collection.....\$ 5,278.50  
Children's Offertory.....\$ 0.00  
Loose Offertory.....\$ 107.00  
# of Envelopes Used.....146  
Attendance at Mass.....212

**CSA PLEDGE INFORMATION**

# of pledges.....155  
Amount Pledged.....\$55,070.00

**We have reached our Diocesan pledge goal so any additional monies pledged will remain in our parish. We have been able to provide several hundreds of dollars to the needy in the last two weeks. Thank you for your generosity.**

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND THOSE ON OUR PRAYER CHAIN & HOSPITALIZED**

**Sixth Annual Catholic Women's conference in Erie is just one week away!**

Register today for 1:38 Women, a Catholic Women's conference based on the theme of "BEE the ATTITUDE!". Enjoy a dynamic experience with women from around the Diocese of Erie and beyond! The 6<sup>th</sup> annual 1:38 Women's conference will be held on Saturday, March 20th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and you may attend as follows: at St. Michael Church (85 N. High St., Greenville, PA); via Zoom with masks and social distancing followed; or virtually via Zoom at your own home. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, beginning with Mass at 7:30 am, refreshments 8:15 am and Reconciliation available 9 am to 11 am at St. Michael. All you need to have is an open heart! The event is free, and donations are accepted. For more information and to register visit <http://www.138women.com>, on our parish website, or call (814) 455-7364.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Is being held on Tuesday, March 23rd in the Faith Formation Center from noon to 5:00 pm.** Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: westmiddlesex to schedule an appointment. Your donations are essential. Thank you!!!

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**FROM OUR PASTOR**

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son..."** There're not too many Christians who don't know that verse from today's gospel. Years ago, banners hung from the end zones in NFL stadiums with "John 3:16" sending many people who spent more time in pre-game preparations rather than in church racing to their Bibles to find out just what it meant. And for those of us who are old enough, you can't forget the same citation written in the black patch of paint under Tim Tebow's eyes in his brief career in Denver. The point of the verse is not only having to *believe* in Jesus, but also to *follow* him.

On one of the days of the retreat I was on several months ago, the director assigned me a passage in a book called Breathing Underwater by Fr. Richard Rohr. In it he reminded readers that Jesus never said, "Worship me." But he does say, "Follow me." In other words, it's not enough simply to worship Jesus as the Son of God or believe in Jesus as the Son of God. One has to follow up that belief with action. So yes, anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life. But part of that belief is practice, by following Jesus.

But there's another part of the phrase that's not just about belief. It's about something God *does*. God loved the world. What is this world that God loved? Is it an ideal place where everyone lives in justice and peace and in harmony with nature and all creation? God would certainly love such a place! Do we think it's the good things about our world that God loves and so sent his son to reward those responsible for that goodness?

Nope, that's not what it says. It says the "world" without modification. It is this world where we spend our lives. A world of injustice and discord as well as of love and cooperation. It's a world where there seems to never be good that is untouched by pain, stupidity, selfishness, weakness, hatred, sin and death. The good news is that God loves the world as it is, not as it could be or should be.

Too often, Christianity is presented in a way that makes it sound as if the story of Jesus is about God having to be pacified, or that we have to earn God's love or that God has to be persuaded to forgive. The passage seems to assure us that God started it all, that God sent the son, even aware that he would have to suffer. And why? Because God loves us. That's who God is – Love.

St. Ignatius wrote a meditation that describes the Trinity looking down on the world, in love and compassion. The Trinity sees all humanity: "some at peace, some at war, some weeping, some laughing; some healthy and others sick; some being born and others dying." It's a beautiful meditation of care and the Trinity decides to send the Second Person, Jesus, out of love. Jesus, the love of God made present among us; the source of eternal life, offered to the whole world because God loves the whole world.

God's love will not wait or depend on my repentance. That love will not make any demand upon me except that I accept it. Can I believe that? I can easily believe that I must repent, but it's harder for me to believe that God loves me whether or not I do anything to earn it. I can't earn what has already been given. God loves me (and you) not as I could be or should be, but as I am. Even I don't do that!

**WEST MIDDLESEX, PA**

**Christmas Eve Encore** Holy Week is the highlight of the liturgical year, yet we must be careful in choosing to participate in regular services, even though some will be vaccinated by that time. For those who cannot or prefer not to attend Triduum services, on Palm Sunday (March 28) at 2:00 pm we will offer the same covid-specific service we celebrated on Christmas Eve:

- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during the pandemic which also includes absolution of sins;
- Reception of Holy Communion;
- Distribution of blessed palm.

Wearing of masks will be required, as will social distancing between people not from the same family or household. Perhaps next year we can return to familiar Lenten liturgies, coming together as a parish family. I can't wait!

Stay safe, Fr. Glenn

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**March 14th** – Class grades 1-11

**First Reconciliation:** Please pray for our second-grade students as they will receive the Sacrament of First Penance on Saturday, March 20th. May God Bless Eva, Abigail, Reese, Paxton and Jackson.

**TEEN SHEPHERDS**

The Teen Shepherds, students in grades 7-11, are continuing to collect items for St. John XXIII home:

- Puzzles
- Crossword books
- Playing cards
- Sudoku
- Men's or women's socks
- Adult slippers of varied sizes
- Small prayer booklets

There is a collection bin located in the gathering space of the church. The **last date** donations will be accepted is **Palm Sunday, March 28th**.

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments – Pledge to Heal:**

The Diocese of Erie remains committed to helping victims of clergy sexual abuse heal and recover. Counseling assistance is available for victims and/or their family members through the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, VAC for short, Dr. Gerard Tobin, who can be reached at 814-451-1521. The diocese encourages anyone who has experienced abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy or any employee or volunteer of the church to contact law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the diocese email [ErieRCD@KLGates.com](mailto:ErieRCD@KLGates.com). Victims or concerned individuals can report abuse directly to the diocese by calling 814-451-1543.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**St. Anthony Church, 804 Idaho St., Sharon, PA**

**EASTER BREAD SALE**

Plain bread - \$6.00; Raisin bread – \$7.00

To place an order call: Launa at 724-342-2489 or Linda at 724-866-7488. Pickup: Tuesday, March 30th – 5:00 pm in the church.