

Church of the Good Shepherd



Our Catechumen and Candidates at
St. Peter's Cathedral in Erie, for the
Rite of Election and Call to
Continuing Conversion.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Louis Lauderbaugh Catechumen

Shelby Andrusky Candidate

Dominick Busciarelli Candidate

Ashlee Wherthey Candidate

Clarence Cannon Candidate

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 23rd, 2025

Week of March 23rd, 2025, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 minutes before 9am Mass
Monday, March 24th Men's Club Meeting 6PM Social Hall
Tuesday, March 25th
Wednesday, March 26th
Thursday, March 27th Scripture Study 9:30-11am or 4-5:30pm
Friday, March 28st Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm

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

| COLLECTION | 03/016/2025 |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| # of Registered Families | 577 |
| # of Envelopes Used | 167 |
| Attendance at Mass | 571 |
| Attendance Online 3/9 & 3/16 | 355 & 293 |
| Offertory Collection | \$6,622.00 |
| Loose Offertory | \$1,307.20 |
| Easter Flowers | \$40.00 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$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 – Patty Babcanec

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

| Mass Intention Date & Time | Intentions | Requested By |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monday, March 24th at 8:30am | Rilla Svirbly | Paul & Kathy Bauer |
| Tuesday, March 25th at 8:30am | Maggie Ann McDermott | John & Donna Pavlovich |
| Wednesday, March 26th | NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE | |
| Thursday, March 27th at 8:30am | For Our Parishioners Living and Deceased | |
| Friday, March 28th at 8:30am | Ann Mezei | Tom & Deb Sokolak |
| Saturday, March 29th at 6:00pm | Helen Cook | Family |
| Sunday, March 30th at 9:00am | Clara Bochick | Paul, Nancy & Ed, Rita Wozniak |
| Sunday, March 30th at 11:30am | Nancy Hardisky | Edna & Pam Stimmell & Linda Zduniak |

| LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE | LECTOR | EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS | USHERS (HU – Head Usher) | GREETERS | ALTAR SERVERS |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SATURDAY March 29th 6:00pm | Nora Songer | Brian Rogers James Sobey Cliff Sederland Ed Robich | Mat Macchia – HU Mona Macchia Colleen Pickens | Connie Titus | Alexa Macchia Antonio Maccia |
| SUNDAY March 30th 9:00am | Bonnie Smith | Mary Ann Palanti Christine Schwarz Ken Rogers Diane O'Rourke | Patrick Miller – HU Vicki Miller Neil Hosick | Tom Graney | Vincent Miller |
| SUNDAY March 30th 11:30am | Zoe Belcik | Mary Lu Walter Ted George Aiden Puskar DJ Puskar | VOLUNTEER Don Kemerer Ann U'Halie | VOLUNTEER | Jackson Seelbaugh Luke Seelbaugh |



FROM OUR PASTOR

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Theirs is just one of the thousands of stories of loss and brokenness amid the ashes of the Los Angeles wildfires.

The Washington Post just last January told the story of John and Gail Wirth, who lost their home in Pacific Palisades. Gail is an actress who had once been part of the cast of *Saturday Night Live* and has recently been doing voice-over work in several animated series. John is a writer-producer of the series *Remington Steele* and *Nash Bridges*. Both 72, they had lived in Pacific Palisades since 1995 where they raised their two daughters. “We lost our homes and community and lifestyle,” John said. “But we also lost our imagined future. I thought we would live there forever.”

Gail and John were among the lucky ones: they managed to escape the fire with their two dogs, a few photo albums and a couple bags of clothes along with things they hastily grabbed. They’ve settled in a new, smaller house a few miles away. The stark white walls and empty closets are constant reminders of everything they lost. Just a couple weeks before the fire, they had received notice that their insurance was about to be cancelled – but they’re covered for the loss.

Losing their house was heartbreaking, but more devastating was the loss of “the 72 years of stuff” they had gathered, gifted, handed down, cherished. Lost were archives of their television and movie work. All that filled their little house reflected who they were, what they value, moments in time, access to memories.

Forty years ago, high school sweethearts John and Gail Wirth came to Los Angeles from Sioux Falls, SD. They had nothing except each other. They built a home together. And now, they’re building again.

Shortly after they moved into their new place, the doorbell rang. Their first guests: their daughter, son-in-law and grandkids, and their dogs. And for a time, the house was too full to notice the white walls, the empty closets and all the ghosts of a lost home.

Compared to the California wildfires, the parable of the fig tree mirrors the fragility of our lives, that our struggles and challenges sometimes have the force to uproot our lives in an instant. But with the compassion and love of friends, and God’s constant care we can rebuild, reconnect, refashion the fig trees of our lives with a growing sense of peace and awareness of God’s providential attention. The life of God is always about starting over, about re-creation, growth and discovery. It’s about the grace to make things right and whole again.

Spring’s around the corner! Fr. Glenn

2025

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL UPDATE

CSA UPDATE: So far, thanks to you, we’ve received pledges of \$69,920.00 toward our diocesan assessment of \$49,595.00. Once we reach our assessment, any funds contributed will be put toward our parish project of new sanctuary carpeting. Thank you for your pledges and support thus far.

2024

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL UPDATE

Having wrapped up the 2024 CSA Appeal, here are the final numbers. A sincere thank you to all who helped us reach our goal and beyond to the Catholic Service Appeal.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Total Pledged for 2024:</i> | \$78,596.00 |
| <i>Total Paid for 2024:</i> | \$77,496.00 |
| <i>Diocesan Parish Assessment:</i> | \$47,233.00 |
| <i>Pledges Made:</i> | 221 |

RELIGIOUS ED. CALENDAR

Class time 10:00am – 11:15am

March 23 class all grades

March 29 Saturday First Reconciliation

Retreat and Sacrament 9am – 11am

March 30 Class all grades

Schedule change: March 30 EDGE will have class from 10:00am-11:15am

The social night on the original schedule is **CANCELED**.

Please pray for our second graders who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time Saturday March 29.

*Isabella
Haddie
Luke
Presley
Corbin*



*Sophia
Marcus
Bianca
Cora*

Catholic Heart Work Camp INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday March 30 at 10:45 in the
Social Hall**

Discover a community where faith comes alive through service. Catholic Heart Workcamp invites you to be part of something greater through love, service, and connection. Through meaningful service projects, spiritual growth, and lifelong friendships, our Catholic mission trips equip youth to impact their world and deepen their relationship with God.

In a world seeking purpose and connection, many Catholic youth are eager to make a meaningful impact while deepening their faith. They seek transformative opportunities that empower them to love as Jesus did and form genuine connections rooted in their Catholic identity.

Who can attend Catholic Heart

Next Level: Open to those entering the 8th grade in the fall of 2025 and older

Elevate: Open to those entering the 9th grade in the fall of 2025 and older

A Catholic Funeral Service was held on Saturday, March 22nd for Fred Lange, Jr. The prayers and sympathy of the parish are extended to his sisters Connie Lange and Mary Anne (Tony) Russo as well as all his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us while we commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross during the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6:30pm.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING

There will be a Men's Club meeting on Monday, March 24 at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room. All men of the Parish are welcome to attend.

Becoming Catholic OCIA/RCIA

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

The period of Purification and Enlightenment takes place during the season of Lent and immediately precedes the initiation of the catechumens and candidates into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. It is a period of spiritual preparation and reflection, centered upon the process of purification and conversion.

Scrutinies

The scrutinies are celebrated during the period of Purification and Enlightenment on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. They are rites meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect, and to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The scrutinies deepen the resolve of the elect to love God above all.

Please continue to pray for Louis,

Shelby, Ashlee, Clarence and Dominick



LENTEN PENANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, March 16
2:00pm
Immaculate Heart

Thursday, April 10
6:30pm
Saint Joseph

Thursday, March 20
1:30pm
Epiphany of the Lord

Thursday, April 10
6:30pm
Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, March 23
1:30pm
Beloved Disciple

Fridays of Lent
6:00pm-7:00pm
Immaculate Heart

Wednesday, April 2
6:30pm
Good Shepherd

Sundays of Lent
After 10:30a Mass
*Our Lady,
Queen of the Americas*

Sunday, April 6
2:00pm
Notre Dame

Saturdays of Lent
3:15pm
Saint Philip

These times are in addition to the regular scheduled times.

Check your parish bulletin for more information and other times.

Morning Prayer will take place 15 minutes before daily Mass during the weeks of Lent. This is the "official" prayer of the Church around the world celebrated each and every day. It's called universal – as we move through each time zone across the world, millions more pray the same psalms – 24 hours of prayer. Come join us at 8:15 AM.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA NEWS

OLF CAVATELLI FOR SALE

Our Lady of Fatima's Cavatelli can be purchased in the Good Shepherd Social Hall on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am - noon. The cost is \$15 for a 5 lb. bag of cavatelli.

40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS

Help the Altar Rosary society fight hunger by giving a little...to feed a lot! Please bring canned goods &/or non-breakable non-perishable food items with you when you come to Mass during the Lenton season. *Look for the grocery cart in the Gathering Space.* **Most need food items:** canned vegetables (low salt / no salt), canned stews or soups, canned tuna, chicken, and ham, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, cereal, canned fruits (in their own juice), and 100% juices. **We'll also gladly accept non-food items such as:** laundry & dish detergent, toothpaste, toilet paper, diapers, soaps, and shampoo. Just please no glass items. **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!**



FYI

Lindy Paving will be working on SR 18 (New Castle/Sharon Rd) beginning April 7th, 2025, thru July 11th, 2025. This project spans across SR 28 from Roman Rd to the SR 18/SR 760 interchange.

Expect occasional lane closures Monday thru Friday, 7AM-5PM and Saturday as needed.

Knights of Columbus Easter Bread Sale!

Bread purchases and pickup will be available throughout Saturday at the John Paul School Kitchen and also before & after the April 12th and 13^h masses @ OLF, St Barts, & ND when possible

Traditional, Raisin, and Tri-Color \$10
or any 3 for \$25

We can arrange pre-sales;
For order or pickup you may contact Rich at 724.991.0116 (Phone or Text) or email at Fleis.Rich@Gmail.com

Interested in:

Easter Bread Volunteer
(Bake or Distribute – All are welcome, and fun family activity!
Can you braid hair?!? WE LOVE BREAD BRAIDERS!)

Being part of the Knights of Columbus
 Making donation towards supplies

WHERE DID WE GET THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

Until the Moslem invasion of the Holy Land in the tenth century, Christians (Catholics) regularly undertook pilgrimages to Biblical locations, especially to Jerusalem where Jesus was arrested, tried, sentenced and killed...and rose on Easter.

Christians (Catholics & Orthodox) who lived there had developed a path through the holy city called the "*Via Dolorosa*" – the Way (or Road) of Tears – that approximated the journey of Jesus from the Roman Governor's palace to the site of capital punishment (Mount Calvary). From there it was a short way to what was believed to be the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, who donated it for Jesus' burial. Today it is called the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Devout Christians came to the holy city to walk the path Jesus took, along which certain locations were set aside to mark various events that may (or may not) have taken place on that fateful Friday.

To afford passage for such a pilgrimage would have been expensive but it had become worth the cost to Christians in that time. However, when the Moslems (now Muslims) controlled the lands of the Bible, such travel/pilgrimage was almost impossible, as well as dangerous. Thus, the Crusades, which were fought on and off for a couple hundred years.

Catholics back home in Europe, prevented from making the pilgrimage to the "*Via Dolorosa*," started developing in their dioceses, parishes or monasteries/convents a devotion that could be prayed anytime that incorporated some of the prayers and "stations" that had been part of the Jerusalem experience. This did not gain acceptance universally in all dioceses or parishes, but began in random locations, so there would be a French, or English, or Italian version, and initially, these stations were constructed outside on church land, or through the parish cemetery. Eventually permanent images, carved in stone or statuary or mosaics depicting a certain scene were installed. In certain countries, there were as many as 20-30 "stations!" Eventually the Church decided that the number would be 14; recently adding in some places a 15th station: the Resurrection.

Because their purpose was to remind the faithful of the slow, deliberate journey Jesus took to his death, the stations were always "walked" by those participating. Once standardized, parishes took to installing them inside the parish church, mostly around the perimeter. Only with the advent of the printing press, did it become a devotion that could be prayed privately as well as publicly.

Though some of the traditional stations have no foundation in Scripture (for example, Veronica, the number of falls) most do or are presumed because of the nature of the story (like, Sentencing by Pilate) or other historical information.



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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.