

Church of the Good Shepherd



**The Two Late Wise Men
Rowan & Marco**

Week of January 19th, 2025, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 minutes before 9am Mass
Monday, January 20th Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 Men's Meeting at 6pm in Social Hall

Tuesday, January 21st
Wednesday, January 22nd
Thursday, January 23rd
Friday, January 24th

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

Church of the Good Shepherd

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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

COLLECTION	01/12/2025
# of Registered Families	566
# of Envelopes Used	203
Attendance at Mass	459
Attendance Online	152
Offertory Collection	\$8,303.00
Loose Offertory	\$1,047.00
Christmas (Offertory / Gift)	\$565.00 / \$125.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$180.00
Communications	\$25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, January 20th at 8:30am	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Tuesday, January 21st at 8:30am	COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY	
Wednesday, January 22nd	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thursday, January 23rd at 8:30am	COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY	
Friday, January 24th at 8:30am	COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY	
Saturday, January 25th at 6:00pm	Mary Agnes Radkowski	Grandma & Grandpa
Sunday, January 26th at 9:00am	Genevieve Bridge	Mary Rose Marks
Sunday, January 26th at 11:30am	Sophie Bayer	Barbara Urban

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU – Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
SATURDAY January 25th 6:00pm	Nora Songer	James Sobey Monica Hanrahan Phyllis Williams David Pringle	Paul Bauer – HU	Carol Baker	Maryn Hosick James Maynard
SUNDAY January 26th 9:00am	Ron Carson	Tom Sokolak Tom Hurbert Ken Rogers Ron Adams	Patrick Miller – HU Vicki Miller VOLUNTEER	Tom Graney	Rylee Adams Vincent Miller
SUNDAY January 26th 11:30am	Judy Miller	Beth Garrett Ted George Arlene Repko VOLUNTEER	Pam Esposito – HU Raymond Repko Maurice Igou	VOLUNTEER	Jackson Seelbaugh Luke Seelbaugh



FROM OUR PASTOR

“There was a wedding at Cana.... and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.”

The Last Rifleman

For Artie Crawford, the war never ended. Artie served as a rifleman with an Irish Infantry unit during World War II. He was just 16 years old – and petrified. He survived the invasion of France on D-Day only because of the street smarts and pluck of his best friend Charlie. Then one horrible day, while pulling Artie to safety, Charlie stepped on a land mine. The grief and guilt haunted Artie for the rest of his life.

In the film *The Last Rifleman*, Pierce Bronson plays Artie at 92 years old and residing in a Belfast senior care facility. Maggie, his wife of 68 years, has just died. He suffers from PTSD, constantly reliving the deaths of his comrades. On television he learns about the 75th anniversary ceremonies marking D-Day in Normandy. Artie resolves to go, despite his age, his long list of health challenges, his expired passport, and the strenuous objections of his caregivers. But Artie sneaks out of his Belfast residence with a small suitcase and a pocketful of Euros.

Along the way, he experiences the kindness of strangers who are touched by his story and go out of their way to help, including the truck driver who gets Artie to the ferry to France in time and the single mom of two who smuggles Artie across the Channel in her trailer. The kindness of those who help him along the way gives Artie a new perspective on humanity as he wrestles with the pain of his past.

In France, he meets a one-time German soldier, who expresses his remorse for the actions of Nazi soldiers during the war. At first, Artie cannot withhold his anger, but as the German veteran shares his story, Artie’s attitude begins to soften. Artie also meets a one-time American GI who recounts as he helplessly watched his younger brother being killed during the D-Day landing. Their experiences helped Artie understand that he is not alone in his remorse and doubt. They were all boys then, thrown into a maelstrom not of their making.

Without giving away too much of the film, Artie finds Charlie’s grave at Normandy and is able to pay his respects to his friend – and the war finally begins to come to an end for Artie Crawford, the “last” surviving rifleman of his Ulster unit.

In this movie, Artie dares to confront the demons of war that have haunted his adulthood. His odyssey to Normandy is his own version of the gospel story of the miracle at Cana, in which he discovers the “new wine” of forgiveness and mercy, of hope restored and compassion rediscovered. The writer of the Fourth Gospel calls the water into wine miracle the “first sign” of Jesus’ ministry. Perhaps a fitting sign of what Jesus has been sent into the world to do – transform the world from brokenness and self-centeredness into God’s banquet table of generosity, healing and hope. It becomes a place where the watered-down wine of fear is replaced with the exquisite wine of gratitude for the life God has given us.

Enjoy a blessed week! Fr. Glenn



RELIGIOUS ED. CALENDAR

Class time 10:00am – 11:15am

January 19 – Class for all grades

January 26 – Class for all grades

January 28 – TUESDAY

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Each student in second grade needs to be represented by a parent at this meeting.

February 2- Family Day – Class

Students in all grades with a parents will have a class together in the social hall from 10:00am – 11:15am. Younger siblings are welcome to attend. Any family with tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade students are welcome to attend. Topic: Sacraments of Initiation.

Winter Call Off Procedure New procedure this year

1. The announcement will be put on the Team Reach app.
Contact the Religious Education office for the parish code.
2. The announcement will be put on the parish Facebook page.
3. If your family wishes to have an individual phone call contact the Religious Education office.

Becoming Catholic RCIA/ OCIA

Today we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome for our one catechumen (unbaptized) and four candidates at the 11:30 Mass. This rite formalizes the catechumen and candidates' willingness to continue the process of becoming Catholic. Their sponsors and community are also asked to participate in the process. Please continue to pray for Louis our catechumen and Shelby, Dominick, Clarence and Ashlee our candidates.

SHENANGO VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

A BRAND NEW MINISTRY

GUINNESS & GOD

Young Adults (ages 18-39) are invited to the Kick-Off of Young Adult Ministry - a 3 week series. Come enjoy great food & drinks, meet new friends, & have faith-filled conversations!

SPEAKER LINEUP

JAN. 23

FR. JAMIE POWER

JAN. 30

DR. KEITH LEPAK

FEB. 06

FR. JOHN MILLER



THE CANONIZATION
PROCESS UP-CLOSE



THE PAPACY IN
AMERICAN LIFE



STORIES FROM A
HOLY LAND MISSIONARY

RSVP to Gabby Herndon:

Cell: (724) 301-6127 | Text or Call
youthforChrist@DioceseofErie.org

LOCATION

Hickory Bar & Grille | 6:30 PM
1645 N Hermitage Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148
Appetizers & Spiritual Nourishment provided.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thanks to Donna Pavlovich, Gary Salatino, Marty Visniesky, Patti Holsapfel, Marie Flickinger, Jean Colella, and Dan & Phyllis Williams and all who help restore the church back to "Ordinary Time" from "Advent-Christmastide".

Everything looked great!

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in search of an enclosed cargo trailer. If anyone has one for sale or knows anyone selling one,

Please call Gary: 724-977-0439

Thank you!!!

Mark Your Calendars 2025 Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual Parish Spaghetti Dinner will be



**Sunday, February 16th
from 11am – 3pm**

Please watch the bulletin for more information.

Additional Christmas Flowers

In Memory/Honor Of:

George P. Valetich

John Woge

Mother, Father, Sister

From:

Betty Valetich

Shirley Woge

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bator



Altar Rosary

2025 PA Lottery Winning Numbers

DATE	NUMBER	WINNER
1/5/2025	293	Keith Gaines *
1/6/2025	353	Stephen Dudek
1/7/2025	074	Mike Simmon
1/8/2025	692	Pat Weber
1/9/2025	319	Donna Pavlovich
1/10/2025	547	Jillian Sinko
1/11/2025	103	Margaret Supel

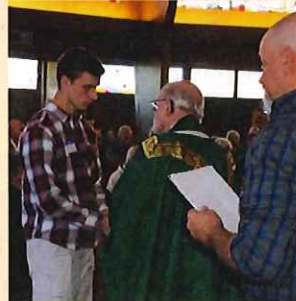
* Sunday winner receives \$100

All other winners receive \$50

Altar Rosary Society Meeting

The Altar Rosary Society will have its first meeting of 2025 on Thursday, February 6th, 2025. The recitation of the Rosary will begin at 6pm. We welcome all ladies of the Parish to join us.

Parish Celebration of the Anointing of the Sick Sunday, January 26th during the 11:30 Mass



Next Sunday, during the 11:30 Mass, Father Frank and Father John will join us as we celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick. Please reach out to friends and neighbors who might want to participate in this powerful ritual of healing and forgiveness. The Hospitality Team is preparing a splendid brunch for everyone after Mass, so plan on remaining for a bit of socializing and refreshment.

How much do you know about the Anointing of the Sick? *(Fill in the blank)*

1. The two sacraments of healing are _____ and _____.
2. A sick person can receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick more than once for the same illness. True or False

Answers
1. Anointing of the Sick & Reconciliation
2. True



COLLECTION	12/22/2024
# of Registered Families	566
# of Envelopes Used	200
Attendance at Mass	546
Attendance Online	278
Offertory Collection	\$7,234.50
Loose Offertory	\$1,544.30
Christmas Collection	\$135.00
Christmas Gift	\$335.00
Christmas Flowers	\$65.00
Religious Retirement	\$50.00
Human Development	\$20.00
Cemetery	\$20.00

COLLECTION	12/25/2024
# of Registered Families	566
# of Envelopes Used	236
Attendance at Mass	842
Attendance Online	401
Offertory Collection	\$450.00
Christmas Collection	\$4,625.00
Christmas Gift	\$7,281.50

COLLECTION	12/29/2024
# of Registered Families	566
# of Envelopes Used	158
Attendance at Mass	447
Attendance Online	280
Offertory Collection	\$4,615.00
Loose Offertory	\$180.00
Christmas Collection	\$215.00
Christmas Gift	\$1,834.00
Christmas Flowers	\$35.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$25.00

COLLECTION	01/05/2025
# of Registered Families	566
# of Envelopes Used	195
Attendance at Mass	421
Attendance Online	538
Offertory Collection	\$5,590.55
Loose Offertory	\$1,207.50
Christmas (Offertory / Gift)	\$25.00 / \$25.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$869.00
Communications	\$5.00
Religious Retirement	\$40.00

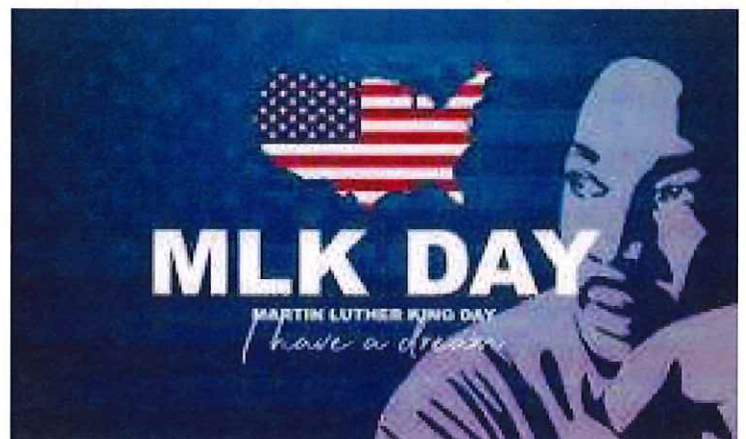
Prayer for Healing

Jesus, Master Physician of all times, Your Divinity did not require a Ph.D. Eagerly, You resurrected the dead, Restoring the health of the sick. Be it physical or spiritual torment, None were a great obstacle to You: For Your loving power is omnipotent. I ask for Your abounding healing love; Maintain my body and soul vigorous, so I may fulfill my daily functions. The world will be conquered by You, All afflictions will be dissipated!

Catholic Online

A Family Perspective At Cana, we gain valuable insight into Mary's parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand, or manipulate. Instead, she simply pointed out the situation and trusted her son to make the best decision.

Parenting Pointers Remember, your children are not a reflection of you. They are souls placed on this earth by God with their own unique purpose. Our job, as parent and guide, is to help them identify this purpose.



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd
West Middlesex, PA

One Minute Meditations

St. André Bessette

Born in Montreal, Canada, St. Alfred Bessette was orphaned at the age of twelve. He was mentored by Fr. André Provençal, who inspired him to join religious life. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five, becoming "Brother André," and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed with oil from a lamp lit before St. Joseph. With help and donations, he built an oratory to St. Joseph.

Holy simplicity

Holy simplicity, or "spiritual childhood," starts with being who you are and not trying to be who you're not — even in prayer. When we're open-hearted with God, His grace can change our hearts. We grow in humility, trust, and love — the roots of "tough" virtues like courage, perseverance, and faithfulness.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven"
(Matthew 5:44-45).

7 resolutions to transform your New Year

The New Year is a chance to come closer to becoming the person you are meant to be. As you embrace the new beginning, consider these seven resolutions to allow God's love to transform your life.

1. **Trust Him:** Trust in God is the foundation of a peaceful soul. Start each day praying, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I surrender myself to You; Take care of everything," and He will.

2. **Embrace authentic humility:** A humble heart chooses others first. Ask, "How can I best love this person?" and let your actions reflect that answer.

3. **Partner with your guardian angel:** Your guardian angel is always with you, offering guidance and protection (Matthew 18:10). Call

upon your angel daily for heavenly help.

4. **Practice self-discipline:** Small sacrifices can lead to profound transformation. Skip cream in your coffee, offer someone full attention, cut back on screen time.

5. **Seek out silence:** God often speaks in silence. Find silence in your day to rest in God's presence, and let Him renew your spirit.

6. **Deepen your knowledge of our Faith:** Faith blossoms with understanding. Look through the Catechism until something interests you, and dive deeper.

7. **Offer God your free time:** If you have an hour to yourself, spend five minutes in prayer. No time spent with Love, Himself, is ever wasted.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have two versions of the Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is the summary of the beliefs of the early Church. The Nicene Creed is an expanded form of the Apostles' Creed and comes from two great Church councils (Nicaea, 325 and Constantinople, 381). Intended to combat Arianism, the Nicene

Creed emphasizes Jesus' divinity and divine Sonship (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #465). As a communal profession of faith, the Nicene Creed affirms the core beliefs of the Church and unites the congregation in a shared declaration of truth.

A proven way to grow in friendship with God

Do you long to feel God's love more deeply but find something holding you back? St. Ignatius of Loyola shared this struggle, inspiring him to create a transformative daily practice. This practice can help you live with greater joy in your journey with Christ:

1. **Give thanks:** Reflect on the blessings of your day. Pause to savor them and offer heartfelt gratitude.
2. **Seek clarity:** Ask God for the grace to recognize your sins and remove them from your heart.
3. **Examine your day:** Review your actions from

waking until now. Reflect on how sin crept in, the virtues you may need to cultivate, and areas of your life that need God's healing touch.

4. **Ask for mercy:** Come to God in repentance. His mercy welcomes you back, and Scripture assures us that Heaven rejoices over every contrite heart (Luke 15:7).
5. **Resolve to grow:** Commit to loving God and others more fully tomorrow. Plan how to resist temptation, make an effort to amend relationships, or prepare for Confession if needed.

from **S**cripture

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Not the Messiah they expected ...

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah, who would "bring glad tidings to the poor." Then He said, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." He confirmed that He was the long-awaited Messiah.

His hearers must have been shocked: they expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this Messiah-king to defeat the

oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the even greater enemies of sin and death by His Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out His plans: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God's love is stronger than sin and death. If He rose to glory, those who follow Him faithfully will, too.

Q & A Does fervent prayer & change God's mind?

Prayer doesn't change God's mind, as if He had to be persuaded to love us. God is a good Father, and He is our Father who knows how to give good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11). Yet, prayer is still powerful and worthwhile for other reasons:

Prayer changes us: God rewards persistent, faith-filled prayer: "Lord, I entrust this to you. Thy Will be done." When we persevere in prayer, grace goes to work in our souls: our desires are purified, ordered, and sometimes even deepened. Our hearts are gradually brought into line with God's, and we begin to see, choose, and love like He does.

Prayer is relationship: A read through Scripture shows God seems to enjoy involving many "co-conspirators" in His plans, even today. He doesn't need us yet desires our (active) involvement in His plans. He has the final say, but wants to hear our thoughts, questions, and concerns. God didn't make us to be robots but His children and heirs (Galatians 4:6-7). Prayer isn't magic. It's way more powerful.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 3 – The Holy Name of Jesus. In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "... At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

January 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275). St. Raymond studied canon (Church) law before joining the Dominican Order. He worked for Pope Gregory IX, then was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. Afterwards, he was elected head of the Dominicans. He retired two years

later.

January 23 – St. Vincent of Saragossa (304). Born in Saragossa, Spain, St. Vincent trained as a deacon under Bishop Valerius. During the Diocletian persecutions, St. Vincent and the bishop were captured. St. Vincent was tortured but refused to deny Christ.

a – Saints Timothy and Titus (1st century). St. Timothy was converted by St. Paul and became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work, especially at Corinth. St. Titus served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.

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)



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