

Church of the Good Shepherd



CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

Erie Diocesan Priests/Deacons
attend annual Emmaus Convocation
at St. Vincent's College this week.
Keep them in your prayers.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST– JUNE 22, 2025

Week of June 22, 2025, Calendar of Events

Rosary 1st Sunday of every month 20 min. before 9am Mass

Monday, June 23rd

Tuesday, June 24th - Red Cross Blood Drive 12 – 5
in the Social Hall

Wednesday, June 25th

Thursday, June 26th

Friday, June 27th

Saturday, June 28th

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

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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

06/15/2025

of Registered Families

583

of Envelopes Used

176

Attendance at Mass

527

Attendance Online 6/15

316

Offertory Collection

\$7,907.00

Loose Offertory

\$1,246.00

International Needs

\$10.00

Easter

\$50.00

Mass Intention Date & Time	Intentions	Requested By
Monday, June 23 rd at 8:30am	Communion Service	
Tuesday, June 24 th at 8:30am	Communion Service	
Wednesday, June 25 th	NO MASS NO COMMUNION SERVICE	
Thursday, June 26 th at 8:30am	Communion Service	
Friday, June 27 th at 8:30am	Communion Service	
Saturday, June 28 th at 6:00pm	Geraldine Furlan	Sandra Furlan
Sunday, June 29 th at 9:00am	Robert Kamensky	Wife, Patricia Kamensky
Sunday, June 29 th at 11:30am	Rilla Svirbly	Sandy & Karen Rosati

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	USHERS (HU –Head Usher)	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, June 28 th at 6:00pm	Phyllis Williams	Phyllis Williams James Sobey Gary Salatino Ed Robich	John Moroco – HU Patrick Chovan Kathy Bauer	Cathy Moroco	James Maynard
Sunday, June 29 th at 9:00am	Ron Carson	Bonnie Smith Tom Hubert Diane O'Rourke Rudy Koraus	Bob Devlin – HU Patti Chupak Jeff Creveling	Judy Selenchik	Rylee Adams
Sunday, June 29 th at 11:30am	Angela Dalessandro Olivia Gingras	Arlene Repko Mary Lou Walters Aiden Puskar DJ Puskar	Deb Sokolak – HU Raymond Repko Neil Hosick	VOLUNTEER	Madison McClelland



FROM OUR PASTOR

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood will have my life in them."

Mealtime is just about the best time for everybody. Some may prefer bar-be-que to Italian, vegan to omnivore, dessert to the entrée or large portions to petite, but just about everybody I know considers "time to eat" among the happiest words they hear all day. And why not? Food is not just the fuel that keeps us running – it is a pleasure. And mealtime at its best is a social event when we come together with friends and share our lives.

That's probably why food is at the heart of most of our celebrations. Just recently Fathers' and Mothers' Days, Easter, New Year's, Christmas and Turkey Day have weighed down our dining room tables. We plan special days around the food that customarily accompanies it. I suppose we plan every day around food, whether it's a to-go bag or gliding through the drive-thru.

As Catholic Christians it's the Eucharist around which we navigate our weekends; our liturgical feasts, saint's days, holy days and ordinary days are centered around a meal of bread and wine. Kinda makes sense, doesn't it, that the sacramental action that accompanies our lives as Christians is a meal. It would be odd if it weren't.

The bread and wine of our Eucharist may look pretty simple, possibly inadequate, to anyone who was looking for something filling. And if we took a serious gander around our communion table we'd realize that it's set among people who may be strangers to each other. Compared to the family gatherings, the meal we gather to share in the community of faith may seem to be a rather sterile event, a sparse ritual in the worst sense of the word. But remember Jesus took a couple slippery fish and some hard bread and satisfied thousands of people with it.

What we learn slowly over time is that satisfaction doesn't come simply from the food but from the blessing that the meal imparts. It might come from the occasion that brought us all together, or the eyes of the one who looks across the table at you with love. It may be the hands that serve you when yours are no longer steady, or in

the one who picked up the tab so that you could enjoy a feast that you couldn't afford yourself. In the case of our Eucharist, all of these blessings are present and true. Loaves and fishes, bread and wine, a roomful of strangers, and the love of Jesus Christ. It is enough!

Of all the memorable meals we've all enjoyed, this one recalls for us the greatest hour of human history, when God's life and our lives were joined in one eternal reality. What's more, our Eucharist isn't simply a reenactment but an actual participation in that holy hour. What once was, is now – and will be forever. Scientists tell us that when we remember something, our brains recreate the chemistry of the original event so that we actually "re-live" the experience in our bodies as well as in our thoughts. What happens in the action of our Eucharist is more powerful still. By God's design, our sacrament makes real and vital the presence and life of Christ in our midst. Christ's own journey from death into everlasting life becomes ours.

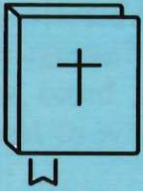
The human race once stood before a locked door through which we could not pass. Our participation in this meal identifies us as the people with the key, and freedom of passage. If we understood what this holy meal represents, we should treat it like all the feasts and rush to claim our place at table. We would dance up the aisles; dance our way out of the church as well, brimming with the life that has no end.

Our world could be a lonely place, but for parishes centered on the Eucharist. Jesus was unwilling to send people off to find their own provisions; he fed them in groups of 50, keeping the community together. Yet so often, Holy Communion becomes "holy Isolation" as each one enters into some personal, solitary frame of mind to get "his" or "her" sacrament. A few moments of silence or reflective music is welcome in our noisy world, but the Eucharist is never a personal covenant between me and God.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, the consequences are always a shared and common life.

Blessed Corpus Christi to you all!
Fr. Frank and Fr. Glenn

CSA	PLEDGES	ASSESSMENT	CARPET	REMAINDER
2025	\$94,755.00	\$49,595.00	\$35,198.16	\$9,961.84



3 M's
Midsummer Midweek Meditation
Wednesdays in July 2,9,23,30
no meeting July 16
Time: 5:30pm -5:45pm
Place: Church
Join Lauren and special guests
spend some time in quiet
reflection and meditation.

Yes, Myrissa did this a few summers ago..



Do you like the feel of a book
instead of a tablet?
Do you need a spiritual uplift?

Come check out the small parish library in the
hallway of the social hall.
Lauren is in the building most weekdays from
8am-4pm. Call or email if you would like to
look at the shelves at a different time. 724-528-
3539 Ext. 6 religioused@goodshepherdwm.org



May 20, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On June 29th, the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, the two Apostles who shed their blood for Christ in Rome. The Peter's Pence Collection is taken up every year throughout the Church on or near that Solemnity. This year the collection will be taken up on the weekend of June 28 and 29.

The Peter's Pence Collection supports the charitable works of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the successor of St. Peter, as he responds to some of the most urgent needs of people throughout the world, including relief to victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. Peter's Pence also helps our Holy Father support seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers, and other medical facilities in developing nations, as well as many other charitable works.

From the beginning the Church has made it a priority to help the most in need among our brothers and sisters in the human family. Your prayers and contributions will allow this important work to continue.

Through our support of the Peter's Pence Collection, we are also helping to strengthen the ties that bind us together as the Family of God. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Scan to give



Save the date!!

July 21st @ 5 PM –

**2025 Annual Father / Son Steak Fry Tickets at \$20 each and will be sold before and after
Masses beginning June 7th.**



VBS
at
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST MIDDLESEX
in conjunction with
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JULY 13 - 17
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BECOMING CATHOLIC

Do you want to learn more about the
Catholic church?

Do you want to learn more about Jesus?

Have you been baptized?

Are you interested in confirmation?

Please call Fr. Glenn or Lauren

724-528-3539

Or email

religioused@goodshepherdwm.org



**Ongoing Grief
Support Group**

Support Group
Women of the parish

Have you experienced a loss of a loved one?
Do you want to share your journey with others?

A support group was formed at
Good Shepherd a
few years ago.

Would you like to join us?

For more information please call
Mary Ann Palanti 724-347-4949

OR

Rosemarie Murcko 724-866-3531.

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Thursday, 6:00PM @ Common Grounds, Mercer
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Join us for a cozy night of coffee, community, and
games at Common Grounds in Mercer. Bring a
friend, grab a drink, and get ready for some fun!



Catholic Book Club
Starting June 12, join us as we journey through the life of St. Ignace of Loyola in the novel *Ignace* by Scott Turow. This is a compelling, heart-wrenching story that
bridges the gap between knowing about Jesus and truly following Him. Whether you're
new to your faith or looking to go deeper, this book will challenge and inspire you to
grow in a deeper way.

JUNE 26 2024

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Blood Drive Give Away: Along with a \$15 e-coupon, all presenting donors in counties: Erie, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Venango, McKean, and Mercer Counties will be entered into a drawing to win this Splash Lagoon Package.

Splash Lagoon includes:

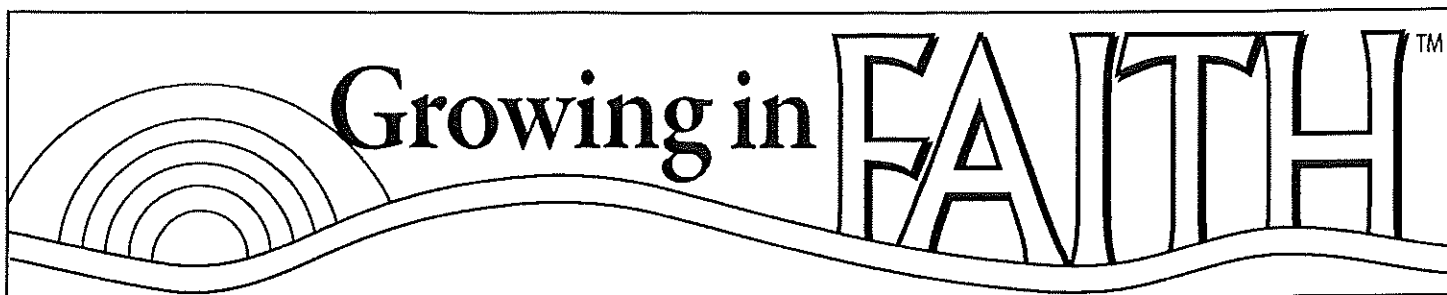
- 1 overnight package, 4 Splash passes for 2 days, \$25 restaurant card = \$425
 - Expires December 1, 2025 Drawing on 7/7

**Splash
LAGOON**
INDOOR WATER PARK RESORT

DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Blood Drive
West Middlesex Community
Good Shepherd Church
church hall
3613 Sharon Road
West Middlesex
Tuesday, June 24
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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

June 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd
West Middlesex, PA

One Minute Meditations

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Born in 1568 to the Marquis of Castiglione Castle in Italy, St. Aloysius was living at the court of Francesco de' Medici as a page when he met St. Charles Borromeo. In 1585, St. Aloysius entered the Jesuit Order. His studies for the priesthood were disrupted by famine and a plague. He volunteered to tend the sick. He died of the same plague at the age of twenty-three. He was known for his purity, penances, and theological brilliance.

Encountering God's heart

It's one thing to "know about" God — like knowing someone's name and zip code — but knowing His heart is a different matter. Jesus founded the Church so everyone everywhere could encounter God and experience His redeeming, transforming love. If just "knowing about" Jesus isn't enough for you — good! He's always calling us to experience His love more.

"A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation...he can help me...if I pray, I am never totally alone."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*

You are a passion of Christ

Want to know someone? Find out what he or she loves. So what is Jesus passionate about? It's simple — He is passionate about you. Not humanity in general, but you.

When Jesus looked at the crowds, He didn't see a blur of faces. He saw each person—knew them, loved them. The Crucifix and the Eucharist aren't just symbols; they're proof that His love goes to staggering lengths to be with us and bless us. It's a love so personal and intense, it demands a response. So how do we respond?

Start simple: "Thank you. I love you." We assume people know we love them, but it still matters to say it out loud. The same is true of Jesus. In His appearances to St. Margaret Mary and later to St. Faustina, He shared how deeply wounded He is by indifference and ingratitude, especially in the Eucharist. He also promised immense grace to those who console Him with

love, thanks, and attention.

Come to the Feast. At every Mass, Jesus gives everything—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374). He gives us His whole Heart, hoping we'll give ours

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9).

in return. He is as present now as He was at the Last Supper. Simply showing up to be with Him is an act of love — and a bold act of faith.

Receive His Mercy. When we come to Him in Confession, genuinely sorry, He doesn't scold—He celebrates. Not because of our sin, but because He gets to pour out His mercy. "*Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me*" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 1146). Confession doesn't just free your soul—it fills His Heart with joy.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

A Eucharistic procession — a public act of worship during which the Blessed Sacrament is carried by a priest through the streets — is a centuries-old tradition.

Dating back to the Middle Ages, at the center of the procession is the Blessed Sacrament in a radiant vessel called a monstrance. Behind the priest (or deacon), the faithful follow, praying and

Why do Catholics hold Eucharistic processions?

singing in reverent joy.

When these processions move beyond church walls and into the streets, they become more than a ritual — they become a living proclamation of Christ's Real Presence. No speeches, no signs — just silent reverence and an open invitation for others to encounter the Lord Himself.

Words can build—or break—bridges

"The way we communicate is of fundamental importance." Pope Leo's point is that words can build up or tear down, open hearts or shut them tight. In a noisy world, choosing how we speak is one of the most important choices we make.

Manners matter. Real communication doesn't bulldoze others. It doesn't chase agreement at all costs. It doesn't feed off competition. A healthy conversation makes space for different viewpoints while still seeking the truth. Winning an argument might feel good—but it rarely changes hearts. And changing hearts is the point.

Speak the Truth—with love. Truth isn't always popular. Sometimes it's hard. But truth, spoken without love, loses its

power. As Pope Leo put it, we must never separate "the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it." This is especially vital when carrying out spiritual Works of Mercy like counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, or even admonishing the sinner. The goal isn't just to be right—it's to bring people closer to Truth Himself.

Ditch the stereotypes. People don't fit neatly into boxes. When we lean on lazy labels, we lose the chance to see each other clearly—and we only deepen division. As Pope Leo said, "Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment ... Let us disarm words, and we will help disarm the world."

from Scripture

Matthew 16:13-19, Founded on the "Rock"

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church, intended to last for the rest of time. In it, Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It was a question about Jesus' identity, rather than about the persuasiveness of His teaching or His popularity. Catholicism centers around who Jesus is. The Truth is true, regardless of popular opinion.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simon answered for the disciples, identifying Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). For this, Jesus

changed Simon's name to Peter ("Rock"), reflecting a change of identity and mission. He gave Peter (and his successors) the keys to the kingdom—a sign of authority to interpret Scripture, forgive sins, and (re)admit people into the Church.

This truth has been handed down through the ages, from the Apostles to the bishops to us. The Holy Spirit would lead Peter—and his successors, the popes—to continue speaking and acting in truth as the visible head of the Church.

Q & A How can I get more out of using Scripture in prayer?

The practice of *lectio divina*, or "sacred reading" is a Catholic devotion with ancient roots. The best-known form was developed by Guigo II, a twelfth-century Carthusian monk, and consists of four steps.

Reading: The first "rung" of the ladder is simply to read. Consider reading the Gospel of the day, a favorite verse, or an event from Christ's life, e.g., the Anointing at Bethany (John 12:1-8).

Meditating: Reread and wait for the Holy Spirit to point you to something. Sit with it for a while. What do you feel? Can you imagine what's happening in the passage?

Praying: God always speaks to us through Scripture (Hebrews 4:12). This is the time to ask Him to shed light on it. God reveals His heart to us and us to ourselves.

Savoring: This stage is called "contemplation"—a resting in God. It's the moment when a conversation between friends settles into a comfortable silence.

Lectio divina is a guiderail for prayer, rather than a strict set of steps. Don't worry: God knows what we need and how best to reach our hearts.

Feasts & Celebrations

June is the month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, wounded by our sins, yet blazing with divine love for us. We're encouraged to receive Holy Communion worthily and visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga and his companions (1886). While serving under Ugandan King Mwanga II, St. Charles and his friends faced persecution for their faith. When Lwanga and his companions refused King Mwanga's immoral demands, the king ordered them all to be executed, which they underwent in joyful anticipation.

June 17 – St. Emily de Vialar (1856).

Born into the French aristocracy, St. Emily used her inheritance to found a religious order—the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. They cared for the sick and started schools in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

June 19 – St. Romuald the Abbot (1027). Born in Ravenna, Italy, St. Romuald fled to a Benedictine monastery to do penance, after witnessing his father kill a relative in a duel. St. Romuald sought solitude as a hermit, yet many came seeking guidance. He founded several monasteries, including the Camaldolese.

June 28 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary. In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942 and initiated this feast in 1944.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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