

# The **GOOD** SHEPHERD

Quarterly

January 2026, Volume 5, Issue 1

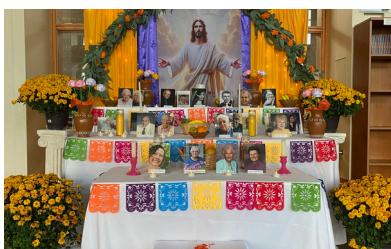


*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. - Psalm 100*

## In this issue

- **Part 2** of Deacon Tom Kaldy's story about Rev. Thomas Major
- **Featured Section** on Good Shepherd Catholic School
- A Word from **Father John**
- **Staff Spotlight** - Ben Loftus

## GSP Gallery



## Be on the lookout

Throughout the Quarterly, you will see our little Shepherd's Staff to indicate the end of an article.



## A Warm Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the 2026 Good Shepherd Quarterly!

This year, each issue of the Quarterly will explore who we are and what we do as stewards of God's calling, as we turn our attention to the mission statements that shape life at Good Shepherd and guide us as a faith community.



We begin with Good Shepherd School and its enduring call:

**Putting Christ at the Heart of It All.**

More than words, this mission guides how we teach, serve, worship, and grow together—forming a legacy of faith rooted in Christ and growing toward the future.

We look forward to sharing the stories and faces of Good Shepherd in the year ahead as recorded evidence of all God is doing in the life of our community. Feel free to submit ideas, questions and suggestions as we create this ever evolving resource. Our hope is to inform, encourage and entertain through the musings and memories shared in the pages of The Quarterly.

Thank you for being part of the Good Shepherd story—past, present, and still unfolding.

# Catholic Schools Harmonize Truth with Truth

- by Father John Lijana

Truth is not an opinion.  
JOHN 17:17

Christ-centered instruction is more important in society than ever before. As our knowledge of creation has grown, we have made many advancements in science and technology. More and more areas of science are more and more people focused on the search for a particular truth while ignoring the source of all truth. This is a good example of failing to see the forest for the trees. The desire to search and find the truth leads to the notion that there are diverse kinds of truth. We focus on the truths subordinate to God's Truth and neglect the pursuit of the source of all these truths, Jesus Christ.

Public schools focus on the lesser truths of science and history and fail to include religious truths. They have separated truths into separate kinds, such as scientific, historical, and religious. History truth is not scientific truth or religious truth and religious truth is unimportant. This separation of the truths makes it difficult for someone to see the interrelatedness of these truths because what relates them to each other is Truth, our creator, Jesus Christ.

The Catholic view is that there is an order of being: God, humanity, and then the world. This means that God is at the top of an hierarchy of Truth and all the other "kinds" of truth are related to the Truth – who is a person, Jesus Christ. Scientific discoveries help us solve the mysteries of the world, including how the world acts in harmony with the Word of God. God is love and we are called to strive to act like Him. To gather knowledge of God's creation helps us know more of Him who created us, but if we have knowledge without love, who are we?

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." (I Cor 13:2).

An education system has the responsibility to pass on our culture's knowledge of truth to all its children. A Catholic education can lead to a deeper understanding that science rests on the foundation that the world is intelligible because it was created by Wisdom itself; and to a deeper insight into history, its direction, and one's place in it because it is all part of His plan of salvation for us.



Saint Meinrad Seminary  
Class of 2016

Continued next page

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The inclusion of scripture, prayer, and instruction on the social teachings of the Church into our education curriculum helps provide the answer to the question, why? Knowledge of God helps provide direction to solutions since the solution must be in harmony with God and the rest of creation. Sometimes we may not fully understand something, but we can accept it because our faith tells us that it just feels right because it harmonizes with what we already know.

Holding God up as the source of all truth means that the truth is not our own. Therefore, we do not hold onto "our truths" and ignore someone else's because nobody owns Truth, it is shared. A society with many subjective truths is a society that is not united and has difficulty working in harmony. I think all of us have an idea what this can look like. This is the reason a Catholic education is important to your child, our community, and the world. A Catholic education helps us see how things fit together. Knowledge of God's plan for us helps us determine the proper use of new technologies and proper applications of scientific breakthroughs. The Catholic school can then pass on this knowledge to our next generation of scientists, teachers, priests, religious, and saints with love. The goal is not to have the children succeed in this world, but to be welcomed into the New Jerusalem and reside next to all Wisdom, Truth, and Love.

**"God is 'the Truth'.  
The Bible is the  
'truth about the  
Truth'.  
Theology is the  
'truth about the  
truth about the  
Truth'.**

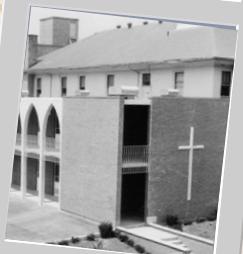
**"The truth is not always beautiful, nor beautiful words  
the truth."** — Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching



## Did You Know?

The first Catholic school, St. Mary's Academy, opened in Frankfort in 1860. Established by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, the students were taught in the convent. When the Sisters established St. Joseph's Convent on Wapping Street, the school name was changed to St. Joseph's Academy. In 1880, the school also took charge of St. Aloysius Boy's Parochial School. In 1917, Good Shepherd Parish bought the Academy and renamed it Good Shepherd Parochial School.

Construction on the first building solely for the school, at 316 Wapping Street, started in 1922 and was dedicated in September 1923. In 1956, four classrooms and a cafeteria were added. The "new school building" opened in 1962, and the gym and parish center were completed in 1981. Good Shepherd Catholic School moved to its present campus in 2013.

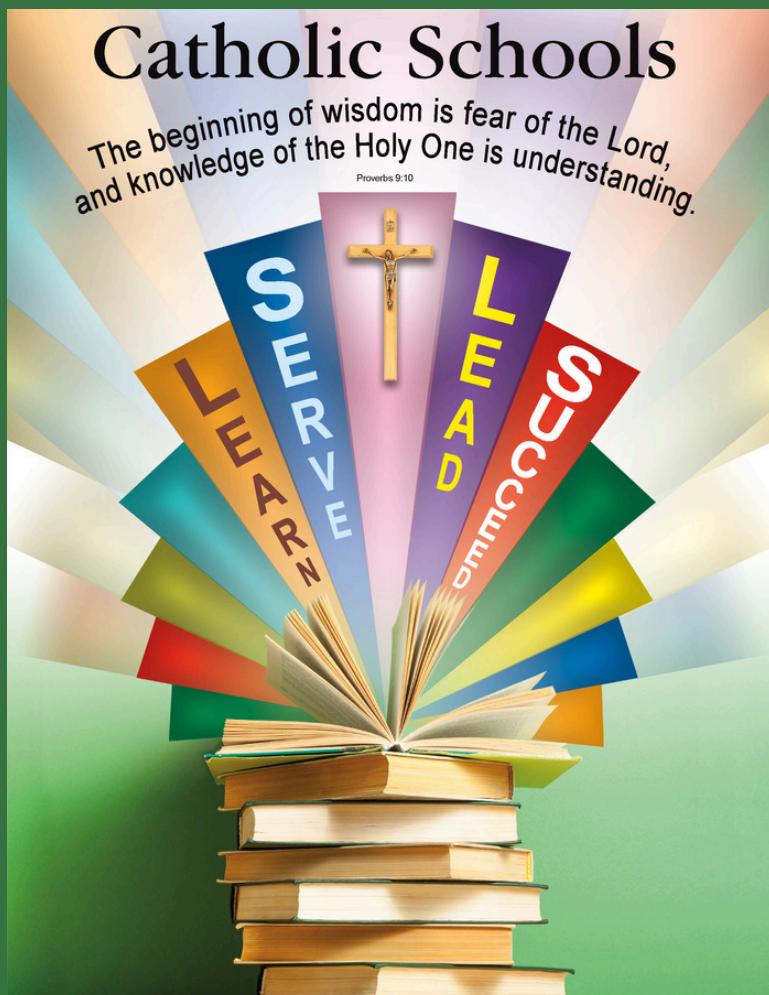




# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

## Our Mission:

Putting Christ at the Heart of It All.



# Open Enrollment Is Here: Discover the Difference at Good Shepherd Catholic School

By Kelly Rowe, Principal, Good Shepherd Catholic School

One of the greatest joys of my role as principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School is interacting with our students—watching them grow academically, spiritually, and personally each day. As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, I am excited to invite both new and returning families to be part of our vibrant, faith-filled school community. Enrollment opens Monday, January 26, and families are encouraged to take advantage of our early-bird enrollment period, which runs through Friday, March 13, with a reduced \$50 registration fee. Enrollment is open for PreK 3 through 8th grade, and we welcome new families at every stage of their educational journey.



Kentucky Wesleyan College  
Class of 2001

## A Legacy of Faith, Learning, and Community

Good Shepherd Catholic School has a proud history rooted in strong academics, Christian values, and deep community ties. For generations, we have partnered with families to educate the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. That legacy continues today through small class sizes, meaningful relationships, and a shared commitment to forming students who are compassionate, curious, and confident.

What truly sets Good Shepherd apart is our intentional focus on community and individualized learning. With an average class size of 15 students in grades K–8, our teachers know their students well and are able to meet them where they are, helping each child reach their full potential.

## Faith at the Heart of Everything We Do

Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures both academic excellence and spiritual growth. For me personally, that mission comes to life each time I see our students living out their faith through kindness, service, and leadership.

## We support spiritual growth through a variety of meaningful opportunities, including:

- A dedicated K–8 Religion teacher
- A monthly in-class Virtue Program
- Weekly school Mass
- School-wide Rosary services throughout the year





Service is also an essential part of our faith formation. Students participate in grade-level, on-campus service projects as well as school-wide initiatives such as:

- Advent collections for Access Men's Shelter and Simon House
- A Thanksgiving Food Drive benefiting St. Vincent de Paul
- A Lenten Easter Food Drive
- Catholic Schools Week community service projects, including this year's card-making effort for the local Meals on Wheels program

## Learning Beyond the Classroom

At Good Shepherd, learning extends well beyond academics. Students have access to a wide range of extracurricular opportunities that allow them to explore interests, build confidence, and develop teamwork skills.

Sports offerings include basketball, cross country, girls volleyball, soccer, and archery. Additional activities include band and choir, a partnership with our local 4 H program, Garden Club, Battle of the Books, and Math Counts.

## What Our Families and Teachers Say

Parents consistently share how grateful they are for the nurturing environment and strong sense of family at Good Shepherd. One parent recently shared:

*"Good Shepherd feels like an extension of our family. Our child is known, supported, and challenged in the best possible ways."*

Our teachers echo that sentiment, noting the growth they see in students each year:

*"The small class sizes allow us to truly know our students and help them grow—not just academically, but as people of faith and character."*

## How to Apply and Visit

Applying to Good Shepherd is simple—everything is completed online. New families are encouraged to contact the school office to schedule a tour, receive the enrollment packet link, or even arrange for students to spend a day with us to experience life at Good Shepherd firsthand. Tours are available year-round.

We are also pleased to offer tuition assistance and scholarships to help make Catholic education accessible to more families.

## An Invitation

If you are looking for a school where your child will be challenged academically, nurtured spiritually, and welcomed into a caring community, I invite you to consider Good Shepherd Catholic School. We would love the opportunity to walk alongside your family and be part of your child's educational journey.

**Enrollment opens January 26—we hope to welcome you soon.**





# Good Shepherd Catholic School

## Putting Christ at the heart of it all



Enrollment for  
2026-27 begins  
January 25, 2026

### WHY CHOOSE US?

- Comprehensive Curriculum
- Qualified & Caring Teachers
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- State-of-the-Art Facilities

### PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Small class sizes
- Individualized instruction
- Aftercare
- Exciting Enrichment Programs





# Staff Spotlight: Ben Loftus

contributed by Mike Stone

## *From Good Shepherd to Good Shepherd, Ben Loftus Answers His Why*

*“It’s my why,”* Ben Loftus said about teaching at Good Shepherd Catholic School. *“There’s not a better job than to help kids get a great start in life. I’m blessed to be here.”*

Here completes a life circle for Loftus. A Frankfort native, he graduated from Good Shepherd before graduating from Frankfort High School, earning a Bachelor in Education degree from the University of Kentucky, and attaining a Masters in Teacher Leadership from Georgetown College, which he achieved last year while teaching at Good Shepherd.

Tom and Kay Loftus welcomed their son on Oct. 16, 1982. Tom, the political reporter for the Louisville Courier-Journal, and Kay lived in Frankfort. They decided it was better than commuting from Louisville almost daily to cover the Kentucky General Assembly and the actions of state government. Kay worked for the Commonwealth and later in the Good Shepherd School cafeteria. They hailed from Cincinnati where they attended Catholic schools. They wanted a similar education for their children.

Ben’s sister, Andrea (Andi) Waldner, also lives in Frankfort with her husband, Matt, an engineer. They have two children, Maggie and Oskar. *“I spend a lot of time palling around with them — sports, movies. Since I don’t have any kids of my own, I hang around with them. Those kids and Good Shepherd kids are kind of like my family,”* Ben, a bachelor, said.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM UK, he was a substitute teacher at Good Shepherd and also worked in the Frankfort Independent Schools system, all the while being persistent in seeking a teaching job at Good Shepherd. *“I wanted to work here, but there were no openings. I worked for a year in state government. I didn’t like it. Sitting at a desk wasn’t for me. Sometimes you have to work to find out what you don’t want to do.”*



Ben Loftus with GSS PreK students

*“When Dr. Ulrich hired me, it was to teach fifth grade. I taught that for a couple years, then she moved me to third grade. Then she asked me to do middle school social studies and religion. After teaching one year with Mrs. Rowe (Kelly, the current principal), she thought I would fit best working with all the students, not just middle school.”* He became the physical education and health teacher, plus he was the volunteer middle school boys basketball coach.

*"I really like it," he said with typical enthusiasm. "It's a lot of fun. I found my niche in PE. I get to see every student in school, which is pretty neat."*

The school schedule varies daily, but every morning starts with a meeting with Deacon Tom (Kaldy) including the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Loftus has the seventh grade home room where he takes attendance and lunch count. A preschool PE class starts the teaching part of his day, and that is followed by four or five PE classes comprised of different grades, kindergarten-eighth grade. Then it's on to car and bus duty, and the day ends in the Parish Life Center and a prayer from Dcn. Kaldy.



Ben Loftus with GSS graduates

*HE WANTED TO TEACH at Good Shepherd, "because the good education — teachers I had — and good (times). I noticed teachers seemed to be happy. I wanted that. You don't realize how good you have it until you go other places. I subbed at other schools, and they don't have it. Students here are really loved and well looked after. What we have is not (available) at other places." He noted that courtesies are taught and stressed at school. "We're blessed to have what we have, and sometimes we forget that.*

*"I loved downtown, but we've got all this space here. Not every school has that," he noted. He teaches because, "I get a lot of satisfaction out of it. I enjoy working with the other teachers. It's kind of like a big family. It gives me a sense of purpose."*

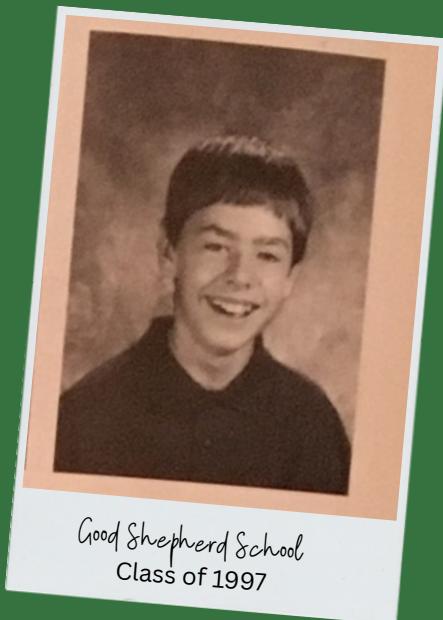
*"One of my favorite days of the year is when students come back to visit with us; hear their success. One day, kids graduating from high school came back in cap and gown and walked the halls; tell us where they're going. To be part of that journey — see the kids grow, be successful — is very rewarding. That they think the school was special (and) to come back."*

*He is hopeful Good Shepherd can grow, "but keep at the same time what makes it special," he said. "Keep Christ first. See the campus grow; buildings for preschool. This is a Golden Rule school."*

The smile remains on his face when talking about the middle school boys basketball team he has coached for several years. He said the season is going, "pretty good." There are more eighth graders than seventh graders this year. "We're growing," he explained. "It's important as a team and having fun. It's a really fun age. You can teach a lot and have fun." Perhaps some of that coaching philosophy came from his own time playing basketball for Good Shepherd when Guy Ziegler was the middle school boys coach.

LOFTUS DOES HAVE PURSUITS outside of school, mostly involving family. He describes himself as a "huge sports guy." That may be fueled by his fond memories of playing sports with friends in school and the neighborhood. He likes gardening. He said he bugs his sister and hangs out with her kids. He's unsure of his summer plans since he finished his Masters, when he had to take classes over the summer. He talked about the possibility of a part-time job or travel. But education seems to be always on his mind as another option is tutoring.

*And what does Loftus learn from the students? "I bet they teach me more than I teach them," he thought. "To not sweat the small stuff. To smile. Not to worry so much. A lot of times we make things big deals that aren't. When you see smiles, stay humble. Keep growing. Keep an open mind and keep growing like them. As adults, our view can be shaped pessimistically, but to see (the kids) optimism is important to take from them. To see life through the eyes of the child. Being around kids keeps you young and optimistic."*



Ben Loftus' "why" is evident. "It makes my day to come here every day. It's because of this school, parish and church. It feels like God's plan. It doesn't feel like a job."



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community



## A Student's Prayer

St. Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever.

Amen.

# Growing Faith and Community: Good Shepherd Launches Garden Club

- by Mary Beth Robson



The Good Shepherd family is planting seeds of connection, stewardship, and faith with the launch of its new **Garden Club**, a ministry rooted in care for creation and community engagement. More than a gardening group, the Garden Club is an invitation to slow down, get our hands in the soil, and as a true community, grow something together. .

The Garden Club brings together participant across the Good Shepherd campus of all ages and experience levels—whether seasoned gardeners or those simply curious to learn. Together, members will cultivate garden spaces on the Good Shepherd campus with the intention of growing vegetables that can be used in school meals, helping nourish students while strengthening the connection between the community, the school, and the land. A wonderful venture in stewardship as participants give their time, skills and service to improve and care for our Parish home.

*“This is about more than growing food,” said Mary Beth Robson, Garden Club organizer. “When we garden together, we’re practicing patience, cooperation, and gratitude. We’re reminded that growth takes time, care, and trust—and that mirrors our faith journey in meaningful ways.”*

Scripture reminds us of the sacred work of planting and growth: *“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow”* (1 Corinthians 3:7). The Garden Club embraces this truth, recognizing that while we tend the soil and plant the seeds, God provides the growth. A living illustration of how God works in our lives.

The Garden Club is intentionally connected to the vision of **Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis' encyclical calling Catholics to care for our common home. Laudato Si' challenges us to see ecological stewardship not as optional, but as an essential expression of our faith—one that recognizes the interconnection between people, planet, and purpose.

By growing food locally on the Good Shepherd campus, the community lives out key principles of Laudato Si', including ecological education and ecological economics. The garden reconnects us to the land and the work of our hands, rather than viewing food as a commodity produced elsewhere. Gardening becomes a form of education, as participants learn to cooperate with nature, respect *seasonal rhythms, and appreciate the balance of creation.*

*“At its heart, the Garden Club is about understanding our relationships,” Robson added. “Our relationship with the earth, with each other, and with God. When we care for what has been given to us, we grow not only food, but community.”*



# THE GREAT GALA 2026:

## A Roaring 20s Speakeasy Experience

**Mark your calendars!** The Great Gala 2026, Good Shepherd School's biggest fundraising event of the year, will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2026**, at the Kentucky State University Research Farm. This year's theme brings back the excitement of a Roaring 1920s Speakeasy, promising an evening full of glamour, fun, and community spirit.

Guests will enjoy a Gatsby-inspired night featuring casino-style gaming tables such as blackjack, Texas hold 'em, let it ride, roulette, and craps. Winnings can be exchanged for raffle tickets to win prizes like golf trips, gift cards, and more. Professional dealers will be available to teach the games, making this event perfect for beginners. The evening will also include a deluxe buffet, a photo booth, and both silent and live auctions with exclusive items.

*"We had so much fun last year, and we want to make it even bigger and better this time around!"* said Gala Chairperson Katie Brown. *"The Good Shepherd Great Gala is shaping up to be more than just fun and games—it's a full experience. A Gatsby-inspired night—with gaming, entertainment, food, drinks, and more, it's going to be a lively evening all about supporting Good Shepherd School."*

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to support the education of approximately 220 students from preschool through eighth grade. Funds will help provide technology upgrades, new instruments for our award-winning music program, science lab equipment, tuition assistance, and teacher salaries.

*"The Great Gala 2026 is a celebration of who we are as a school and parish community,"* said GSS Principal Kelly Rowe. *"It honors our past, supports our present, and helps ensure a strong future for our students.*



We are grateful to our 2026 sponsors, including Permit America, Kentucky Farm Bureau, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, Frankfort Animal Clinic, and HDEZ Construction. A limited number of corporate sponsorships are still available, offering an excellent opportunity to showcase your business while supporting Catholic education. Sponsors receive recognition throughout the event and in promotional materials.

**PERMIT AMERICA**





One of the most anticipated features of The Great Gala is our silent auction, and this year we're aiming to make it our best ever. Supporters will have the chance to bid on a spectacular variety of items over a two-week period leading up to and including the night of this special event. We're reaching out to generous individuals, businesses, and organizations for donations such as products, gift cards, and certificates for services. Cash donations are also welcome and may be used to underwrite auction items, ensuring an exciting selection for our bidders.

Stay tuned for ticket release details—availability will be limited, and this event is expected to sell out quickly. Watch for announcements on [gssfrankfort.org](http://gssfrankfort.org) and our social media channels.

#### Event Details:

- **Date & Location:** Saturday, March 21, 2026 | KSU Research Farm
- **Expected Attendance:** 220 guests
- **Dress Code:** Semi-formal with Roaring 20's flair – sport jackets encouraged for men and glitzy attire welcomed for women
- 

For sponsorship opportunities or more information, visit [gssfrankfort.org](http://gssfrankfort.org) or contact Cricket Hater, Director of Stewardship, at 502-227-4511 or [chater@cdlex.org](mailto:chater@cdlex.org).



# Part 2: From Cavalry to Clergy: A Sketch of the Life of Rev. Thomas Major

by Deacon Tom Kaldy

## Preface

I began a sketch of the life of Rev. Thomas Major in the October edition of the Quarterly. I wrote the sketch in the first person as though Father Major was narrating the story himself. In Part 2, I decided to continue the story shifting from the first person to the third person, where I will tell his story. I will take up Thomas Major's story with his daring escape from a prisoner-of-war camp.

## A Recap

Private Thomas Major, a cavalryman in Captain Bowles' Company C of Duke's 2nd Kentucky Cavalry Regiment, Confederate States of America who participated in the Battle of Buffington Island near Portland, Ohio and Buffington Island, West Virginia. The Confederates were badly beaten. Private Major suffered a serious gunshot wound and was taken prisoner. From this point, the narrative diverges in three different directions

### Imprisonment and Escape Two Versions

#### *The Camp Douglas Scenario*

He was taken to Wellsville, Ohio and then transferred to Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio on July 28, 1863. He was transferred again to Camp Douglas near Chicago, Illinois. Camp Douglas was the largest prisoner-of-war camp in the North. Prisoners suffered from brutal Chicago winters, disease, inadequate food, and poor sanitation. Private Major escaped from Camp Douglas on March 25, 1864 along with twelve of his fellow captives. He made his way into the city of Chicago trying to avoid detection and recapture. Major was suffering from intense hunger, thirst, and exposure. A Catholic Irishman named Charles Donnelly took him in and provided a haven until Private Major had recovered. Private Major offered to provide some recompense, but Mr. Donnelly would not allow it. He said that he was simply carrying out the tenets of his religious belief. It was through this act of charity that Thomas Major dates the birth of his conversion to the Catholic faith. This is how the Catholic Columbian tells the story in an article dated November 10, 1900 celebrating



Father Major's 25th anniversary as a priest. Another account of this episode is from L.F. Johnson in his **History of Franklin County 1912**. Johnson writes, "*He was captured and sent to a jail in Chicago where he fell sick and was ministered to by some nuns. These sisters of charity converted him to their religion.*"

### The Camp Chase Scenario

However, Paul Meagher's **A Brief History of Catholicity in Frankfort**, 1948 tells a different story. Meagher reports that after Major's capture by Union troops, he was sent to the federal prison in Columbus, Ohio. Meagher did not mention this prison by name, but we can assume it was the Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Chase, located west of Columbus, Ohio. Meagher states that he and some of his companions dug a tunnel under the prison wall and managed to escape. Father Major attributed his acceptance of the Catholic faith to a nun who nursed him when he was sick in a military hospital in Cincinnati. This could have been Saint John's Hospital/Good Samaritan established by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Paul Meagher knew Father Major. This is an excerpt from Meagher's 1948 sketch.

*“We remember well a visit which Father Major made to our home one night when a member of our family was sick. In the course of the evening, he told us the story of his army days; of his capture by enemy troops and his escape from the Columbus prison and never have we heard a more thrilling tale.”*

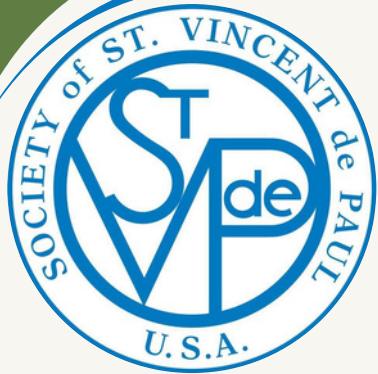
### Final Thought

I found records of Thomas Major at both prisoner-of-war camps. His name appears in the Camp Douglas Prisoner Financial Records 1862-1863. His name also appears in the Camp Chase Roll Call Book 1861-1863. Whatever the true story is, we can say that he was a prisoner-of-war. He was at both camps. He escaped. Was nursed back to health and had a conversion experience which led him to the Catholic faith.

### Service to the End of the War

According to the Catholic Columbian, Private Major escaped to Canada and eventually made his way to Texas where he joined the Confederate forces and served until the end of the war. It is possible that he was a member of the 2nd Texas Cavalry Confederate which fought in the last land battle of the Civil War at the Battle of Palmito Ranch on May 12-13, 1865. The Columbian goes on to report the Major remained in Mexico for a time and was able to secure passage on a British ship bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the earliest opportunity, Thomas Major returned to the United States.

Part 3 of Father Thomas Major's story From Cavalry to Clergy will appear in the Spring issue of the Quarterly.



# HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO OUR GOOD SHEPHERD CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVDP)!

Contributed by Stephanie Sims

*“Help us to help others”* is a phrase our Good Shepherd Conference of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVdP) often uses when we reach out to our parish and the larger community to ask for support to serve the needy in Franklin County. And YOU answer the call!

Our local conference was established in 1976, and we are going to be celebrating its golden anniversary all year long. In the last two issues of the Good Shepherd Quarterly we shared some information about the origins of the first St. Vincent de Paul Society in Europe and the work that our local conference does with the support of Good Shepherd Church. Throughout 2026, in other issues of the Quarterly and in bulletins and newsletters you will be hearing more about the founding of the Good Shepherd conference, current and former Vincentians, and more. In this January issue we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week and focusing on Good Shepherd School’s mission to “Put Christ at the Heart of it All”. The school’s mission is a tenet shared by SVDP and GSS and SVDP have been good partners for many years.

When SVDP first began here in Frankfort, many of those first Good Shepherd Vincentians were Catholic school alumni. They had learned in their youth of Gospel values and the importance of service to others and were looking for a way to live out those values here in the Frankfort community.

As the SVDP grew, they invited Good Shepherd School students to be a part of their work.

The SVDP food pantry and clothing shop were in the basement of the “new” school on Wapping St. for many years, so students were able to help often during the school days unloading and carrying food downstairs to the food pantry. I can remember when I was a GSS student in the late 70s and we were asked to bring a can of food to put in the food box at our school Mass once a month. I always wanted to take a can of “yucky” hominy from home, but the monthly collection for the poor gave my parents the opportunity to teach me about giving with a truly charitable heart by having me choose one of my favorite foods to give away instead.



GSS Students helping with the  
SVDP Giving Tree

The SVDP and GSS connection over the years seems to have been most evident at Thanksgiving time. Sometimes, SVDP would help match a needy family to a GSS class for the holiday. Each class would then decorate a box and fill it with all the fixings for a family holiday meal and sometimes include homemade cards for the family. In more recent years, the GSS students have participated in the parish's annual Thanksgiving food drive for SVDP. The school usually collects at least a ton of canned food and other non-perishables to contribute to the drive and then the students help load all the donated food onto the trailer to be taken to the food pantry.

Christmas is another holiday where the school and SVDP work together. GSS students have helped cut out ornaments for the giving tree and hang them at the beginning of Advent. GSS classes have gone together to shop for gifts for the program too. And each year the students help carry the hundreds of gifts from the church to the PLC for distribution.

The St. Vincent de Paul appreciates the support of our parish school and enjoys working with the children on our charitable projects. And hopefully, one day, the children, inspired by their service with SVDP as GSS students, will be Vincentians themselves.

You can also find more information about St. Vincent de Paul at [stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org](http://stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org), by emailing [contact@stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org](mailto:contact@stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org), or by calling 502-227-8037.



GSS Students helping with the  
SVDP Giving Tree



GSS Students helping with the  
SVDP Food Drive



## St. Vincent DePaul Society's Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 2025

### Thank you, Good Shepherd parishioners!

- **YOU** put food on the table for 814 families with 1,719 adults and 1,131 children, costing \$7,095.31. **YOU** helped 9 families with their home rent and storage, totaling \$3,280.00.
- **YOU** helped the poor (127 families) with their utilities to keep the lights, heat, and water on, costing \$14,766.18.
- **YOU** assisted a family with medicine, costing \$376.10.

Total disbursements were \$25,517.59. **YOUR** charitable gifts totaled \$29,037.42.

*“As you did it to the least of my brothers,  
you did it to ME.” - Matthew 25:40*



## Knights Finish Busy Year, Point to Fish Fry Time

While the last quarter of 2025 was a busy time for Frankfort Knights of Columbus Council 1483, the Knights cannot help but look ahead and start planning for the annual Lenten Fish Fry days. Starting on Feb. 20, the Friday following Ash Wednesday, the Knights will be frying and serving fish

— either inside the Parish Life Center or drive through — for six consecutive Fridays, ending on March 27.

Please mark your calendars and plan to enjoy the best fried or baked cod available during Lent. We look forward to greeting the community. Proceeds from the Fish Fry are shared among various charitable causes in Frankfort and Franklin County, as well as Good Shepherd Parish and School.

During the last quarter of 2025, the Frankfort Knights continued their charitable and civic efforts. The Council helped the seminarians of the Castello Dominican Missionaries relocate from a house Fr. Tom Coughlin rented in Forks of Elkhorn to a new location in Mt. Sterling. Council 1483 paid for the clean up at the Frankfort location.

Several Knights led the Rosary said at the Oct. 27 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and at least one Knight remained vigilant at all hours of the overnight adoration.

Knights served lunch that the Council purchased for the residents of Kings Daughter's Apartments on Nov. 15.



ALSO IN NOVEMBER, the Knights erected the Star Over Frankfort in the Frankfort Cemetery. It will shine Nov. 10-Jan. 13. The bright star shines bright over the community commemorating the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The Council 1483 Christmas gift to Good Shepherd Parish was the Pancake Breakfast with Santa held on Dec. 21. The Parish Life Center was filled after both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses with families enjoying the pancakes, sausage, and bacon. The children had an opportunity to speak with Santa, and each received a small gift.

The Council provided cash donations to the Frankfort YMCA, Fr. Jim Sitchko's Papal Missionary of Mercy efforts, and the Good Shepherd Gala.

### FISH FRY ALERT!



**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's**

**CUT OUT - SAVE THE DATES!**  
**Feb 20, 27**  
**Mar 6, 13, 20, 27**

**5:00-7:30 P.M.**

**Good Shepherd Parish Life Center**  
**72 Shepherd Way**  
**Try Our Drive Thru**

**"Six Fridays of Heavenly Cod Fish"**

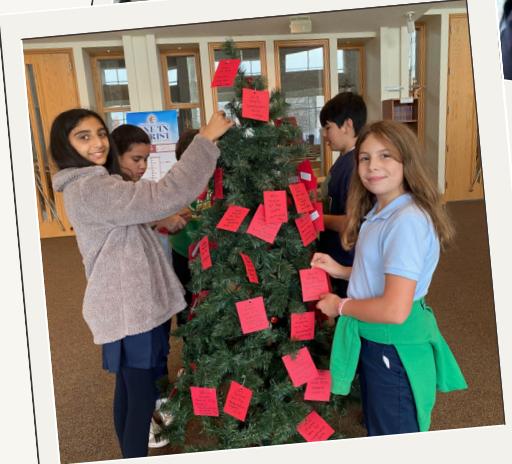
Continued next page

Specific to Council 1483, its annual Golf Scramble was held Oct. 5. A history of Frankfort Council 1483, 1910-1960 was distributed to the Knights. Anyone wanting a copy may contact Grand Knight Joe Hoelkinger, phoenixjoe66@gmail.com. David Mahoney was awarded Knight of the Month for October, and the family of Isaac Garner was awarded Family of the Month for December.

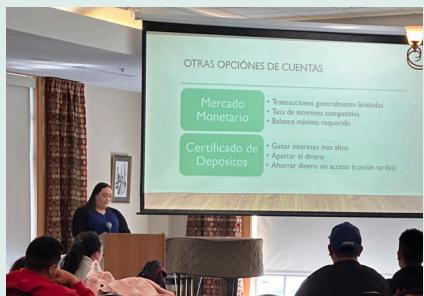
Council 1483 is growing. Rene Rodriguez, Membership Director, is spearheading an effort to reach out to members of the parish community to join in our fraternal order. All Practical Catholic gentlemen of Good Shepherd Parish are welcome to share their time, talent, and treasure through participation in the Council.

Please consider this an invitation to join the fellowship. Good Shepherd Parish are welcome to share their time, talent, and treasure through participation in the Council. Please consider this an invitation to join the fellowship.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month and begin with a 6:00 p.m. social hour featuring dinner and refreshments. All practical Catholic gentlemen are invited to attend the social hour and learn about the ability to fulfill our faith's contributions of time, talent, and treasure by joining the Knights. The business meeting follows the social hour at 7:00 p.m. and typically lasts about an hour. Please contact any Knight for information on how to join or just come to the social hour on the fourth Monday of each month and join us.



## Hispanic Ministry Financial Literacy Seminar Kicks Off Successfully



The Hispanic Ministry launched its Financial Literacy Seminar series with a strong start on January 18, welcoming approximately 50 participants for an engaging and informative workshop. The session was led by staff from Traditional Bank, including Banking Center Manager, Rebecca Quarles, Sarah Barreto, and other members of the Traditional Bank team, who shared practical information about banking and answered questions on a variety of other financial topics.

**Building on that success, three additional workshops are scheduled:**

- February 15 – Budgeting
- March 22 – Savings
- April 19 – Giving



Registration is required for each session. To register, please contact Cricket in the Stewardship Office. All materials and lunch will be provided.



# A STEWARD'S RESPONSE

## 1 Peter 4:10

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Stewardship is the faithful response to all that God has entrusted to us. It is not only about financial giving, but about how we choose to use our time, talents, presence, and compassion for the good of others. Stewardship invites us to recognize that everything we have is a gift—and to return those gifts with gratitude, generosity, and mercy, building up the community and reflecting God's love in simple, everyday ways.

With that understanding, stewardship asks each of us to prayerfully consider: where can I best use my skills, resources, and time to honor my faith and do the Lord's work?

## 4 ways to give your Time, Talent and Treasure





## FOR OUR FUTURE

### *From the Good Shepherd Parish Finance Council*

The Good Shepherd Parish Finance Council met January 19 for an all-day work session to analyze the budget and consider the future of parish and school finances and programs. With the knowledge gained from the analysis, the Council can turn to thinking about the future. It will be an effort that will take place For Our Future.

This historic, fiscal analysis is important given the 19 percent reduction in offertory collections over the past 10 years. In June 2015, the offertory collection was \$978,539. In June of 2025, the offertory collection was \$795,008. That's almost \$200,000 less in annual offertory collections. The parish, apart from the school, needs to average about \$65,000 each month in offertory collections to meet the current parish budget for salaries, operational expenses, and mission support.

While there are some existing savings that can cover emergency expenses, the reality is that a blown air conditioning compressor could push the budget into the red. Periodic resurfacing of the parking lot to maintain safety costs thousands of dollars. Cleaning up a huge snowfall could cause a fiscal problem. The Finance Council wants to plan, as well as possible, to ensure parish needs are met **For Our Future**.

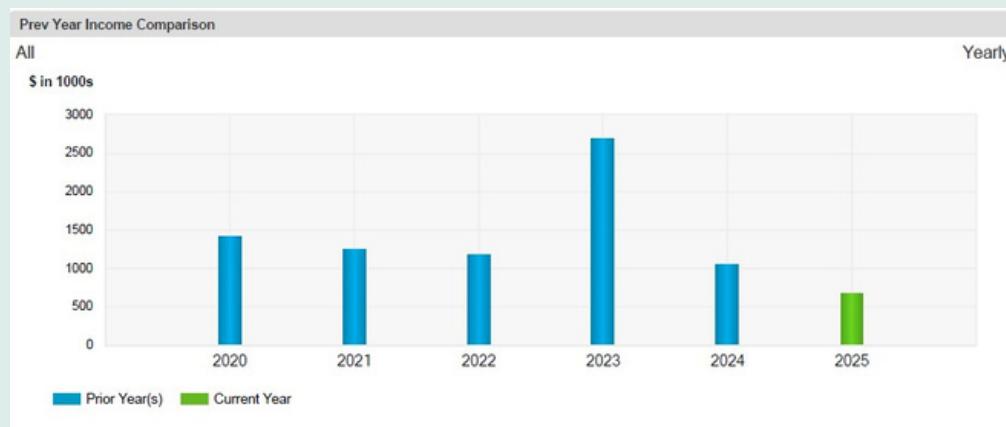
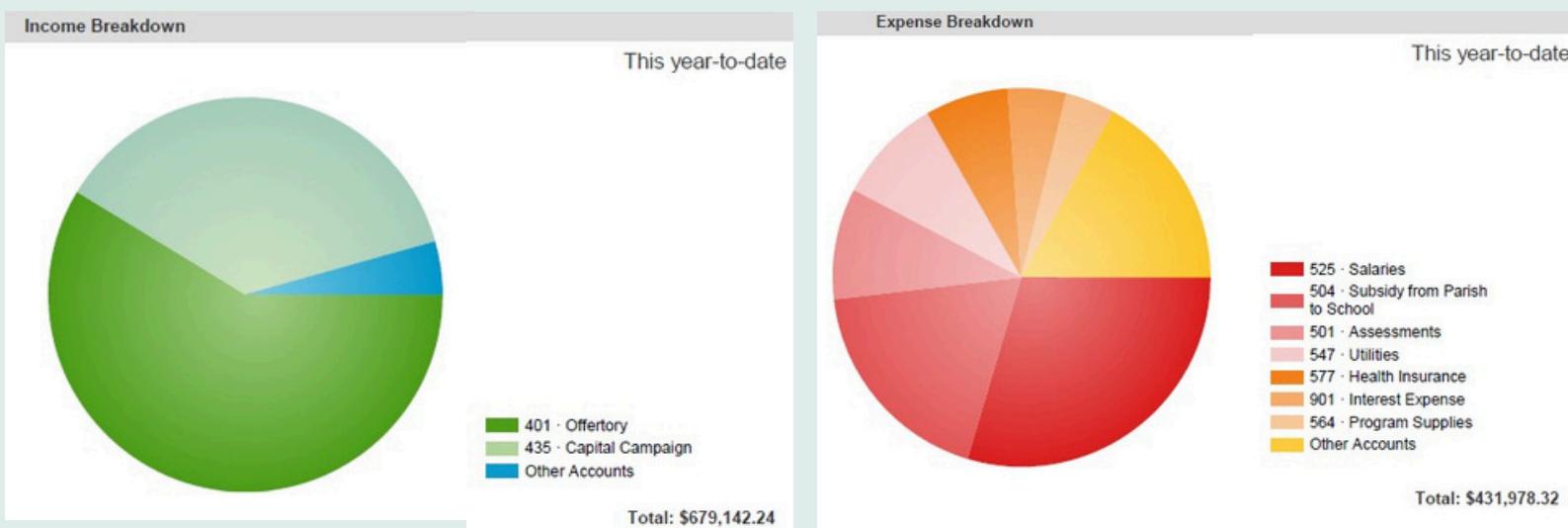
One part of the analysis is to examine expenditures. Is each one necessary? In fact, in recent budgets funding for several programs has been reduced. Many expenses cannot be cut further. There is not a spinning wheel to make altar cloths. The Plant Board is not going to lower the parish's utility bill, and staff is diligent in turning off lights now. Necessary maintenance must be factored into fiscal planning. Questions like whether the parish should expand facilities?, and if so what kind?, need to be answered even if the only reason is to determine what is feasible or not. Just like your household, basic costs continue to increase.

Anticipating inflation will exist, the income – the offertory – will need to increase at least to keep up with inflation. As one Council member said of the Good Shepherd parishioners, "Christ's physical house needs your help." The Finance Council will share the results of the analysis and the considerations For Our Future. You must know what the parish is facing fiscally, and you must know what each parishioner's responsibility will be. There will be no secrets. The solutions involve everyone.

IN NOVEMBER, the Finance Council welcomed John Roth as a voting member, joining Fr. John Lijana, Jeanne Baldwin, Patrick Rupinen, Katie Brown, Mike Stone, and Lloyd Lynch. Also regularly attending meetings are parish Finance Manager Robin Masters, Good Shepherd School Principal Kelly Rowe, and Bobbie Brennan representing the Parish Pastoral Council. Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

*The number of voting members follows the guidelines for parish finance councils established by the Lexington Diocese. Finance councils are to advise the pastor of any fiscal matter that is equal to or in excess of 1 percent of all revenue. No action can take place without the presence of the pastor.*

# FINANCIAL ANALYTICS



## Good Shepherd Church & School

### 2025 Stats

#### People

Households – 538      Members – 1266      Median Age – 50

GSS Students - 191 (96 Catholic, 95 Non-Catholic)

CCD Students – 50

Clergy – 5      Teachers – 19      Other Staff – 11      Catechists – 11

#### Sacraments

Baptisms – 36      First Communions – 32

Confirmations – 17      Marriages – 6      Funerals – 19

Average Mass Attendance – 501      Easter - 1017      Christmas - 796

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Diocesan Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Report as of December 31, 2025

Christmas Budget	\$11,000.00
Easter Budget	\$6,000.00
Offertory Budget	<u>\$783,000.00</u> * (See below)
Total Offertory Budget	\$800,000.00
Monthly Needed to Run Parish	\$65,250.00 * (See below)

	December 2025	Cumulative
Collections		
Offertory - Physical Collections	\$85,776.68	\$386,840.73
Christmas	\$10,426.21	\$10,426.21
Easter	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY - ACTUAL</b>	<b>\$96,202.89</b>	<b>\$397,266.94</b>
Over(Under) Budget	\$30,952.89	

Diocesan Collections      \$1,378.00      \$8,247.00

Capital Campaign      December 2025      7/1/2025-6/30/2026

Monthly Note Payment      \$23,193.00  
Capital Campaign RECEIVED      \$43,326.30      \$248,677.95      \*\* (See below)  
Over(Under) Budget      \$20,133.30

Debt Balance December 2025      \$1,139,771.14

\* Offertory Budget / 12 months = \$65,250.00 Monthly Needed to Run Parish

\*\* This total includes several additional principal only payments that were made in addition to regular pledges

# *Around* Good Shepherd

## All Souls Day 2025



## Veteran's Day 2025



# TRUNK OR TREAT CHILI COOKOFF



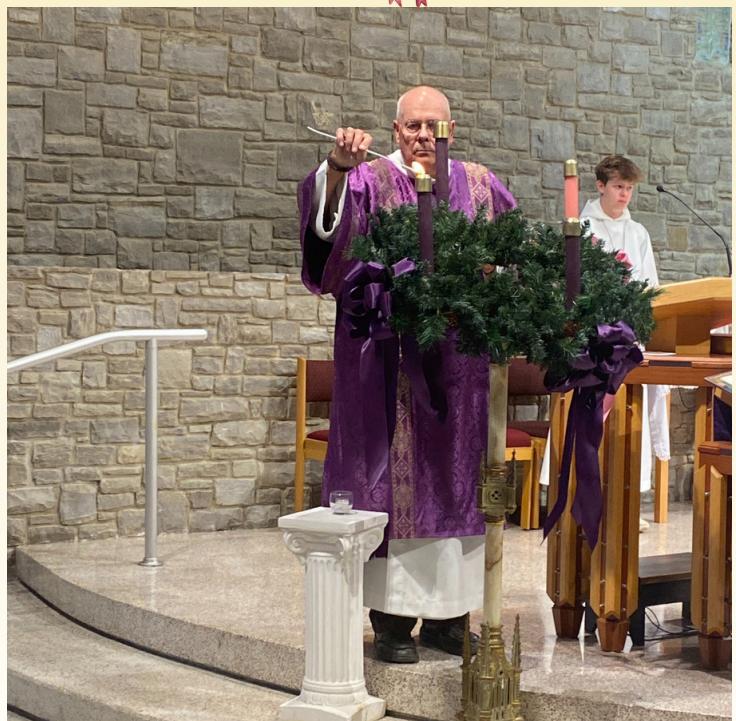
## BOOK FAIR



# Thanksgiving Food Drive



*Advent*



# FEAST OF GUADALUPE



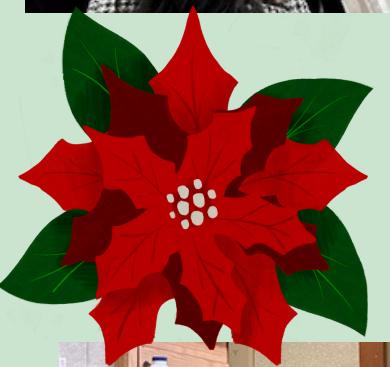
# Christmas Parade



Christmas 2025



# Christmas 2025



# Christmas 2025 Continued

