The GOOD SHEPHERD



WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD QUARTERLY!

This edition celebrates the vibrant ministries that make Good Shepherd Parish a flourishing community of faith. Across our school, parish, and outreach, we are united in purpose and blessed with diversity. As we recognize the many ways God is at work among us, may we also renew our dedication to sharing our time, talents, and treasures—continuing together the work of building His Kingdom.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS ISSUE:

- A word from Father John on obedience
- · Staff Spotlight Lucky Armstrong
- Stewardship Focus Financial Literacy
- 4th Quarter Calendars
- and more!

OBEDIENCE AND THE COMMON GOOD

- by Father John Lijana

I was listening to a podcast of the Catholic Theology Show entitled "The Role of Governance in Christian Life" with Dr. Donald Prudio that discussed governance and where there is governance there will also be obedience. These two things are necessary in ourselves (self-governance) and in society in order for us to be totally free.



God has created us to be social creatures. We naturally form societies, and we desire our societies to function well and prosper. This is accomplished when the society is well-ordered. The Catechism states that, "Human society can be neither well-ordered nor prosperous unless it has some people invested with legitimate authority to preserve its institutions and to devote themselves as far as is necessary to work and care for the good of all" (CCC, 1897). It seems to me that we need someone to govern -- to be given the authority to govern-- so we can have a prosperous society (president), a harmonious staff (boss), or a winning football team (coach).

A well-ordered society attracts people. The United States has immigration control problems, the Ohio State University football team does not have a problem recruiting the best players at the high school level, and the Catholic Church is by far the largest Christian church because these "societies" function well, or at least better than the alternatives. The legitimate authority of these organizations works and cares for the good of all. By "authority" one means the quality by virtue of which persons or institutions make laws and give orders to men and expect obedience from them. The authority required by the moral order derives from God, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment" (CCC, 1899).

Authority does not derive its moral legitimacy from itself but must act for the common good as a "moral force based on freedom and a sense of responsibility" (Gaudium Et Spes, 74 §2). Human law has the character of law to the extent that it accords with right reason and thus derives from eternal law and is considered a just law. Unjust laws fall short of right reason, will not promote the common good, and therefore are not to be obeyed. So, the authority is expected to be obedient to the morals of society and society is to be obedient to authority.

Obedience to the laws of society and rules of the workplace is good for a person. Obedience to these is a way to discipline our will (self-governance). As we grow in self-discipline, we make better choices and these result in our prosperity and the perfecting of our will so that it more resembles the will of God. This applies also to the people who hold legitimate authority. They are expected to work and care for the common good. When we obey the authority that works for the common good, the common good becomes more perfect.

"Opedience is a choice.
It is a choice between our own limited knowledge and power and god's unlimited, wisdom and omnipotence."

Elder L Tom Penny



All of us are not perfect, so we will not act morally in all situations at all times. Yet, God continues to place one of us in the seat of authority. We are still required to be obedient to authority for the good of all. If we only had morally perfect people as president of the United States, we would not have a president of the United States and this would lead to disorder and the crumbling of our society. This would solve our country's immigration problem, but it would also create an emigration problem, among other things.

Obedience to God who is morally perfect, and thank goodness, the judge of all, brings us the freedom to live a full life. To make obedience more palatable, one can view the act of obedience as not a sign of agreement. For example, if you dislike your boss and he makes a just decision and has you work the weekend, by working the weekend you are committing an act of obedience, you are not agreeing with your boss and it is not a sign of your admiration for him. You are acting for the betterment of the department.

Investing in the Future of Stewardship: Good Shepherd at the ICSC Conference









This September, Father John and Cricket Hater attended the International Catholic Stewardship Conference (ICSC) in Chicago, Illinois, held September 21–24. The annual gathering brought together parish and diocesan leaders from across the country to explore new ideas, best practices, and spiritual inspiration centered on stewardship as a way of life.

Throughout the conference, Father John and Cricket participated in sessions focused on parish vitality, donor engagement, and cultivating a deeper culture of gratitude within faith communities. In addition to having a good deep dish pizza, they connected with ministry leaders, learned about innovative stewardship strategies, and brought home practical tools to help strengthen Good Shepherd's mission of faith, service, and generosity.

Reflecting on the experience, Cricket shared, "The one thing I took away from the conference was a reminder of stewardship not being just about fundraising - it's about faith-raising. It's pointing first to Jesus and helping people recognize God's gifts and inspiring them to use those gifts to build His kingdom."

Good Shepherd is proud to be part of an award-winning diocesan team recognized at ICSC. As the Diocese of Lexington Stewardship Office shared, "Thank you for attending ICSC in Chicago recently. I hope you found the training beneficial. Attached is our award photo — you are part of a winning team at your parish and in our diocese, and we are grateful for all that each of you does to raise awareness about stewardship and generosity."

Together, Father John and Cricket continue to help Good Shepherd grow in discipleship and stewardship—rooted in prayer, gratitude, and a shared commitment to serving others.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL



2025-2026 GSS School Council

L-R: Arely Moran Hernandez, Stefan Brunson, Kelly Rowe, Kristen Van Buren, Mindi Gathoff, April Collins, Brandon Laracuente, Maxie Combs, Rev. John Lijana

The Blessing of Tuition Assistance

Our family is deeply grateful for the tuition assistance program at Good Shepherd Catholic School. When we first considered enrolling Anna and Miles, we were unsure if we would be able to afford a Catholic education. Thanks to the generosity of those who contribute to the tuition assistance fund, we were able to make it possible. This support opened the door for our children to grow in a community where faith, academics, and character development go hand in hand.



Each day, we see the difference that a Good Shepherd education makes. Anna and Miles are thriving in an environment that encourages curiosity, compassion, and a love for God. The teachers and staff go above and beyond to ensure every student feels valued and supported, and the strong sense of faith and family within the school is something we treasure deeply.

We are sincerely thankful to everyone who helps make Catholic education accessible for families like ours. Your generosity is changing lives and helping children grow into thoughtful, faith-filled leaders for the future.

--Courtney McCoy, GSS alumna and current GSS parent and teacher



Each January during **Catholic Schools Week** and each August at Back-to-School time, Good Shepherd Church takes up a special collection to help fund the tuition assistance program for Good Shepherd School.

You can also make donations to the fund throughout the year via cash/check with a memo marked "tuition assistance" or via our online giving page at

https://www.osvhub.com/goodshepherdky/giving/funds/school-tuition-assistance.

















Preschoolers have had a wonderful start to the school year, filled with learning, exploration, and faith! Over the past few months, our classes have focused on themes such as Rules and Routines, Family and Friends, Emotions, Trees, Johnny Appleseed, and The Life Cycle of a Pumpkin.

In Religion, we have been learning about the Sign of the Cross and exploring what it means to have faith the size of a mustard seed. We are now reflecting on the story of Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers and how gratitude plays an important role in our daily lives.

As we move through October, our preschoolers are looking forward to their first field trip of the year to Happy Jack's Pumpkin Farm and celebrating the season with our annual costume parade and school-wide trick-or-treating.

Our PK-3 and PK 3-4 classes are now closed for this school year but we do currently have openings in our classes for 4-year-old children. For more info about our Preschool Academy and enrollment for your child/ren, please contact our GSS Preschool Director, Andrea Ridgell, at aridgell@gssfrankfort.org or 502-223-5041.



Staff Spotlight: Lucky Armstrong

contributed by Mike Stone

Dedication to Faith, Service Fuels Smiles

The smile is infectious. Bright eyes shine a welcoming greeting. The nameplate reads Lucky Armstrong, and it feels lucky to be standing in front of someone so welcoming.

Then it becomes known her name is pronounced "lou-key," which is a common nickname in her native Guatemala when a young girl has Lucrecia as one of her given names: Ingrid Lucrecia Ramirez Armstrong. The Armstrong is from her husband, John, whom she met after coming to Frankfort to attend Kentucky State University. Lucky was what her father called the oldest of four. It seems lucky that Good Shepherd School has Lucky as its office manager.

She prefers to be called Lucky. "I don't like Ingrid," she stated. "It sounds so Germanic or Nordic, and I don't look like it." The bright eyes and smile beam from her Latino complexion.

She was born in Guatemala in 1977. Her father, Arceli Ramirez, is a construction manager who held a passion for education. Her mother, Dorita Perez de Ramirez, is a homemaker.

Arceli's father, when Arceli was about eight years of age, took him out of school because he already knew how to read and write and put him to work picking tomatoes and corn. Arceli wanted to stay in school. By 15, he was able to work and return to school, and he was determined his children would be able to get their education.

He also was "very tricky," Lucky remembers. He told his children they could stay in Catholic school, and he would pay the tuition, as long as they maintained a high grade point average. "My family is very Catholic," Lucky said. "We went to Mass every day. My father gave us ice cream. He said he'd give us ice cream if you tell (him) what the readings and homily were about."

THE TRICKS WORKED. Lucky's brother, Immer, is an architect. Her sister, Susan, holds a Masters in Business Education and works throughout Central America training people to be entrepreneurs. The youngest sibling, Katerina, owns a beauty salon. They all live in Guatemala, which Lucky and her Frankfort family hope to visit in December. She hasn't been back since the Pandemic. She noted she wants to see her mother and all the family.



Lucky Armstrong, Good Shepherd School Office Manager.

More than a manager

Her husband was employed by the state until illness prevented him from working. The couple have two sons. Diego,15, is a sophomore at Frankfort High School. Jose,12, is in seventh grade at Good Shepherd School. Lucky does not countenance inappropriate behavior. "They must love God," she said. "They must be polite, and love others as they love themselves. I was raised by a mom that wanted us to be respectful and well mannered. I'm raising them the same way."



John Armstrong was born at Ft. Riley, Kansas, to an Army family. In Frankfort in the 1990s, he worked at HMB Engineering, and a co-worker who knew Lucky said they should meet. John wasn't Catholic, but he said he'd go to church with Lucky. He was baptized in 2000, and they were married in 2001. "It took some time to convince me," Lucky said. "At that time, I didn't want an American boyfriend."

Lucky's arrival in Frankfort was a journey of education. "In Guatemala, in high school, you can have a small career, and I became an accountant," she remembers. After graduation, she wanted to work in computer science. About a month into her college career, a friend of her father's recommended she apply for a scholarship. From a pool of 10,000, she was selected. She holds an associate degree in electronics from Kentucky State University. "The reason I came to this country was because they gave me a scholarship to study."

Her path to Good Shepherd School Office Manager was a testament to her devotion to faith and service. She noted the school is a ministry of Good Shepherd Parish. She left her career to take care of her children, performing some work from her home. "My husband and I talked. When the youngest son got to kindergarten, go back to work. I was looking for a job, and Dr. Ulrich (then Good Shepherd School principal) asked if I could work in the cafeteria. I started as a volunteer. I was here so much, they decided to pay me. Then a position at the preschool as a teacher aide (was available). Then this position came open when Kelly (Rowe, the current Good Shepherd principal) was hired. I came to interview, and she gave me the job.

"THEY CALL ME OFFICE MANAGER, but I do a lot of stuff here. Keep the office going. Act like a nurse. Archivist. I keep records, submit (demographic) information to the Diocese and the state, answer the phone, communicate with families (which happens daily). We don't have a nurse, but if a kiddo gets sick, they come and see me. I'm the first contact with families that want to tour (the school). Plan fire drills and safety. Whatever the kiddos forget, I get it for them. Make sure the children get on the right bus. Helper for teachers.

"The biggest job is I get to help tons of people. I enjoy that. My day is very busy, but at the end of the day I'm happy because I helped a lot of people, especially students. Sometimes, they just need a hug, and I'm there for them. Good Shepherd is a family. I see it as a family. When families see what Good Shepherd is, (some) decide to become Catholic. Not everybody in school is Catholic, but I enjoy the values we work with every day. We're not a perfect school, but we work hard (to help educate).

Lucky professes the same love for Good Shepherd Church. "I am not from this country, but I love how people have made me feel part of the Parish. I love the kindness of Good Shepherd parishioners.

I love how many see past the color of my skin. Many values and gifts God has provided to Good Shepherd. Not sure everybody is aware of all the blessings." She hopes current students will feel so positive about Good Shepherd that when they are older with their families they will want their children to go to Good Shepherd because they had such a positive experience.

She prays that Good Shepherd can grow. "But I'm sad I don't see as many families with their children at Masses," she said. "We don't have the number we love to have. I pray that more families come and become Catholic; that people can see God in our actions and services."

Her personal time is devoted to her family and to service. "I spend a lot of time watching soccer games because of Diego. I either go to soccer games or the theatre. My son enjoys the theatre. I enjoy seeing him acting." On the recent fall break, she took her kids to a museum in Cincinnati and Kentucky Kingdom. She clarified her visit to the amusement park. "I do not ride, but I enjoy seeing them have fun; spend time with them."



IN THE FUTURE, she hopes to keep serving wherever it is, saying as long as God has purpose for her. "Talking about God is my favorite thing to do. I guess that's why I keep (leading) Baptism classes. I hope to continue being a bridge between the English-speaking community and the Spanish-speaking community. We are more similar than different."

She leads Quinceañeras, a traditional Hispanic program for 15-year-old girls. She participates in a leadership program with the Lexington Diocese to help grow faith. In that role, she attended annual summer theological classes at Notre Dame University. We're the ones that cultivate Catholic faith in our schools," she explained. Part of her time is spent reading a lot of books and encyclicals.

It is Good Shepherd's good fortune to have someone committed to God, furthering faith and living a life of service working within the church and at the school. That's Lucky.

News from the Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC meets monthly on the last Tuesday of each month and meetings are open to all parishioners. If a parishioner wants to add an item to the agenda, they should contact Father John or the PPC Chair. Activities of the PPC include serving breakfast during the Confirmation Retreat, serving breakfast during the First Communion Retreat, helping with signups for the new parish photo directory, volunteering during the photo sessions to manage appointments, helping give out the new photo directories.

Current active members of the PPC are Joan Luther, Mary Beth Robson, Hugh Mulligan, Bobbie Brennan, David Artt, Brad Reid, Jennifer Mayes-Laracuente, Eileen Cackowski, Usifo Unuakhalu (Youth Member) and Father John (Ex Officio).

New officers are:

- Joan Luther, Chair
- Bobbie Brennan, Vice-Chair
- Mary Beth Robson, Secretary

If you have any concerns or items for the PPC, please don't hesitate to contact any of the PPC members.

Part 1: From Cavalry to Clergy: A Sketch of the Life of Rev. Thomas Major

• by Deacon Tom Kaldy

A Statue

Did you know that located in the basement of the Parish Life Center in an out of the way corner is a statue of Mary holding the Baby Jesus? If you look closely, you will see a small brass plaque attached to the base of the statue. The inscription on the plaque reads, "In Memory of Rev. T. S. Major by the Major Literary Society, 1916." It is in memory of me, Father Thomas Major. Let me tell you how this came about.



IN MEMORY OF REV. T. S. DIAJOR. EVITH MADDILITIES ANY SOSIETY. 1016

Thomas Major - Civilian

My full name is Thomas Smith Major and I was born in Paris, Kentucky on July 13, 1844. My parents were Dr. Frank W. Major and Ann F. Smith. My mother, Ann Smith died May 24, 1847, a little over a month before my third birthday. I can't remember the date, but later my father married a woman named Ellen Dudley.

My family moved to Covington in Northern Kentucky. My father established a lucrative medical practice there. In 1860 I was fifteen years old. I had a brother named George, age 13, a stepbrother named William, age 5, and a stepsister named Anna, age 4. Later, I would have a stepbrother named William and a stepsister named Charlotte. I attended the Covington public schools until my last year when I attended Mother of God parish school for the benefit of the German instruction there.

In 1861, I left Covington and moved to Lexington to enroll as a student at Transylvania University. You can't imagine what Lexington was like then. Everyone was talking about the war and everyone was taking sides. On September 2, 1862, Major General Edmund Kirby Smith led 11,000 Confederate troops into the city. That was quite a sight and made an impression on me.

Three days later on September 5, I left school and on the streets of Lexington enlisted as a Private in Captain Bowles' Company C of Duke's 2nd Kentucky Cavalry Regiment, Confederate States of America. Wow, from the son of a doctor to a university student to a Confederate cavalryman, my life was changing.

Private Thomas Major - Cavalryman and Prisoner of War

Sometimes, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. My regiment was part of Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's Cavalry Division. We participated in military actions in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee. But the most memorable operation was Morgan's Raid also known as the Great Raid.

The Great Raid took place from June 11 to July 26, 1863. Little did I know that this would be the beginning of a major change in my life. On July 19, 1863, my unit was engaged in a fight against Brigadier General Henry Judah's Union cavalry brigade near Portland, Ohio and Buffington Island, West Virginia. I found out later that this was the largest Civil War battle in Ohio. We were badly beaten there and what was left of our command moved north to Salineville, Ohio.

Eventually, 750 soldiers of my command were captured and taken as prisoners of war. I was one of them. To make matters worse, I suffered a serious gunshot wound in the fighting.

Encouraging Others to Serve

After the trauma of the battle and being wounded, I experienced a whirlwind of changes. I was taken to Wellsville, Ohio where I stayed for a few days. Next, on July 28,1863 I was transferred to Camp Chase, a prisoner of war camp located in Columbus, Ohio. Finally, I was moved to another prisoner of war camp, Camp Douglas, located in Chicago, Illinois. I was suffering acutely from my wound. In addition, the horrors of sickness and death, cold and thirst, hunger and harsh treatment cannot be forgotten. I was a prisoner there for about seven months. I found out later that the death rate there was about 17%.

But my situation was about to change. To find out what happens next, be sure to read Part 2 of my story which will appear in the next issue of the Good Shepherd Quarterly.



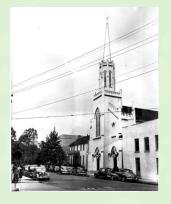
DID YOU KNOW?



When the Parish was Named Good Shepherd?

Benedict Joseph Flaget, Bishop of the Bardstown Diocese, established a Catholic parish in Frankfort in 1848 and named it St. Patrick. When the church moved to Wapping Street in 1850 after acquiring a Presbyterian Church building, the parish name was changed to Good Shepherd.

This question was submitted by parishioner Donna Schartung.



Do you have a Did You Know? question you would like answered? Please send your question to ssims@gssfrankfort.org or kmstone1951@gmail.org. What is it about Good Shepherd Parish or School you wish to know? We may print the answers in the weekly bulletin, e-newsletter, and Good Shepherd Quarterly.

Living the Gospel of Hospitality at Good Shepherd

by Carmen Amato and Mary Ortwein

Catholic Social Teaching understands hospitality as a Gospel-based, justice-oriented call to welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, and build communities where everyone's dignity is honored. This principle inspired a recent lesson presented by Good Shepherd volunteers during their Monday evening class at Stewart Home School (SHS)—and it continues to guide Good Shepherd's ongoing ministry with SHS students, adults with intellectual disabilities who live and learn together at the school's west Frankfort campus.

A Ministry Born from Compassion

The ministry began years ago at a parish picnic, when former parishioner Dorothy Schroeder noticed that Stewart Home students and their chaperones were seated outside in the hot sun, while most others enjoyed the comfort of the Parish Life Center indoors. "Why is this?" she wondered. To Dorothy, it felt like a missed opportunity for hospitality and solidarity—values that lie at the heart of Catholic life.

Moved to action, Dorothy began speaking with others about reaching out to the SHS Catholic community and ensuring they were fully included in parish life. "These students are not just visitors," she reasoned. "They are our brothers and sisters in faith, with unique gifts to share."

Soon, a small team formed—Dorothy joined by Mary Ortwein and Pirkko Gantley—to advocate for SHS students and begin teaching a weekly class on campus. Since then, Good Shepherd has joyfully provided SHS students with the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Reconciliation. Many students now serve as Hospitality Ministers, Gift Bearers, volunteers, and even an altar server. Parish clergy and church members regularly visit the SHS campus to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, lead Ash Wednesday services, and speak with students. Today, SHS students are fully part of parish life—joining everyone at parish picnics, donut Sundays, and Lenten fish fries.

Monday Nights of Faith and Friendship

At the heart of this ministry is the Monday night faith formation class.

Each unit, written by Mary Ortwein, focuses on major Catholic themes such as the Mass, the Creed, the Sacraments, and Catholic Social Teaching. Every week includes a Bible story, a lesson in theology, and a hands-on activity—along with time to share good news, celebrate birthdays, pray for loved ones, and sing together.



Volunteer Dennis O'Neal shares, "I feel blessed working with our parish faith formation class at SHS. We have a great group of adults who actively participate in discussions and activities that help reinforce our Catholic faith."

Other parishioners who regularly serve in this ministry include Carmen Amato, Marie Berberian, Mary Dee Boemker, Leigh Ann Fallis, and Hugh Mulligan.

Joy in Service and Shared Faith

"I joined this ministry shortly after it started," says Marie Berberian. "Preparing lessons and spending time with the students is so rewarding. I learn from them as I share my faith. Every Monday, I go home with a feeling of joy and peace. Seeing their welcoming faces at Sunday Mass is a true blessing."

Hugh Mulligan adds, "I've always felt compassion for people with physical or intellectual challenges. When Mary Ortwein invited me to join, I felt the Holy Spirit tell me to say yes. This ministry has taught me to accept all people as they are. It's a joy to see the students' smiles and hear their voices as we sing hymns and praise songs together."

Leigh Ann Fallis sums it up simply: "I love sharing what I know—and learning from the students and the team."

A Living Expression of Faith

Loving, learning, sharing, praying, and praising together.

Giving and receiving acceptance just as we are.

Offering the dignity and grace of the sacraments to all.

These are the blessings of Good Shepherd's ministry with Stewart Home School—a living witness to the Gospel of hospitality.

If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to take part in this ministry, please contact the parish office to be connected with a volunteer.







SCHOOL

"HELP US TO HELP OTHERS"

"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!



For nearly 50 years, Good Shepherd parishioners, and many others here in our hometown and even beyond, have helped to serve the poor in Frankfort through the SVdP by giving time in various volunteer roles and with gifts of food, money, thrift store items, Christmas presents, and prayers.

Our SVdP conference is an all-volunteer organization, so gifts of time and service are necessary. From the beginnings in the 1970s when just a few men from the parish started making home visits to later when a handful of church members were serving the poor out of the rectory to now when dozens of people work at the SVdP on Wallace Ave, volunteers continue to be key to keeping up the important work being done. We currently have people who sort and distribute food, folks who sort and clean and sell items at the thrift store, helpers who pick up furniture, drivers who deliver food boxes to the homebound, someone answering phone calls and emails, someone mowing the grass, others handling repairs and maintenance on the buildings, still others lending a hand doing data entry and recordkeeping, and so much more. It takes a lot of dedicated individuals to keep the food pantry, emergency assistance program, and thrift store running and to make personal connections with those who ask for help.

Most of our volunteers are Vincentians and members of Good Shepherd or Catholics who live in the surrounding area giving witness to the Gospel teachings that SVdP was founded on. But we welcome others to also volunteer. Serving those who are lacking resources is also only possible through the generosity of those blessed with more. Bringing canned goods, providing Christmas presents, and donating clothing and household items are all ways to keep the SVdP programs going. But monetary donations are a huge help too! Monies collected at the Masses on the first Sunday of each month, from online donations, and for memorials all help purchase food when the pantry shelves are getting low and provide emergency assistance with such things as keeping utilities on, gas for transportation to medical appointments, medicines, and auto repairs for people in a tight spot. In the July-September 2025 quarter, SVdP used donations from such sources to pay out over \$37,000 for food and other emergency assistance for our neighbors in need. Hundreds of families and individuals benefit from SVdP help each quarter.

Grants are also a great benefit to our cause. For example, a grant helped purchase a large freezer for the food pantry, so we can provide more meat for clients.







And recently, a generous grant from the Frank W. Sower Community Trust was given to support flood victims and others appealing to SVdP for aid.

There are two big events coming up in November and December that are long-held traditions for SVdP and Good Shepherd that you can be a part of: Thanksgiving Food Drive and Giving Trees. Every year the food drive brings in literally tons of food to restock the pantry shelves as winter begins. And donations of presents and money for the Giving Trees project provide Christmas gifts for 60 households. Watch the weekly bulletins and newsletters for more details coming soon on how you can contribute to these efforts during the holiday season.

You can also find more information about St. Vincent de Paul at stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org, by emailing contact@stvincentdepaulfrankfort.org, or by calling 502-227-8037.

"As you did it to the least of my brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

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by Mike Stone

On Sunday, December 21, following both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses, Knights of Columbus Council 1483 will be the host of Pancakes with Santa. The Knights' Christmas gift to Good Shepherd Parish will welcome Santa Claus to the Parish Life Center.

All parishioners, particularly families with children, are invited to attend. There is no cost. The menu features pancakes with a holiday design. Santa Claus will be present to talk to the children. Photos will be taken. Each child will receive a gift from the Knights.

Pancakes with Santa is one of Knights Council 1483's contributions to enhance the parish and further Christ's presence among us. Please join and celebrate Advent with the Knights on December 21.





Do your giving while you're living so you're knowing where it's going.



Knights of Columbus Council 1483 Contributes to Parish and Community

August to October 2025, was a busy period for the Knights of Columbus Frankfort Council 1483. The Council's efforts seek to fulfill its core principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Council pursues six key areas of service: Faith, Community, Family, Youth, Fellowship, and Respect for Life. There are 180 Catholic gentlemen who are members of Council 1483. They are using their time, talents, and treasure to contribute to the Parish and the community.

Council 1483 does have fun too. Its annual golf scramble was held at Juniper Hill Golf Course on October 5. Fun will be emphasized on Sunday, December 21, when the Knights sponsor Pancakes with Santa as their Advent/Christmas gift to the parish. Parishioners, especially families with young children, are invited to come to the Parish Life Center after either the 9:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Masses. The pancakes are free, and children will receive a gift and will be able to talk with Santa and pose for a photo.

Knights' contributions to the Parish include participation in the annual Rosary Rally on October 11 and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament October 27-28. The Knights are purchasing 300 English-language and 75 Spanish-language Knights of Columbus Prayer Time booklets for distribution to parishioners. The Knights purchased food and supplies for the annual Parish Picnic on August 9.

Knights helped with Grandparents' Day at Good Shepherd School and were present at the Fall Festival on October 18. The annual Soccer Challenge was sponsored by the Council and held at Good Shepherd School with student participation.

Deacon Reid Myers, a member of Knights Council 1483, offered his keynote concert, Breaking the Chains That Bind Us, on October 11. The Knights assisted with stage set up and provided refreshments.

The Frankfort/Franklin County community benefitted from the Knights, too. Council 1483 members cooked and served lunch for the Governor's Open Golf Tournament September 6-7.



The Council donated to Redeeming Hope of Kentucky, a non-profit organization headquartered in Richmond seeking to rescue girls from sex exploitation. It also donated to the Capital City Activity Center to support the Senior Citizen Meals on Wheels program.

Council 1483 is growing. It welcomed three new members in September: Victor Azucena, Solomon Alamilla, and Franklin D. Gonzales. In August, Rene Rodriguez, Membership Director, was named Knight of the Month, and in September, Charles Massie was named Knight of the Month. The family of Greg Meyer was named Family of the Month in August.

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.

Knights of Columbus Council 1483 Contributes to Parish and Community







Photos, Clockwise from top: Knight Jason Myers at the Governor's Cup, Knights at Rosary Rally, Knight at Governor's Cup

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 (except December) and join us.

The Pineapple Flower Dance Contributor: Arely Moran

Some of the women of our parish have been gathering regularly in the past year to practice and perform "The Pineapple Flower Dance". This is a traditional dance from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico in which the dancing ladies, wearing a garment called a huipil, represent all indigenous women.

Members of the group say that performing the Pineapple Flower Dance fills them with peace and joy. And in getting together for practices, they can find a moment among women to relax and support each other.





The dancers have performed here at Good Shepherd at the celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and at the Fiesta Latina.

The group was also recently invited to participate in the Latin Festival at St. Thomas More University in Florence, KY. Group member, Arely Moran, says, "We were filled with joy and honor to go dance at St. Thomas representing our Hispanic community of the Good Shepherd in a "Hispanic Festival," supporting the university's Hispanic students and raising awareness of our Latin culture."

The dancers have also performed the "Bull Mambo Dance." It is a joyful and fun dance performed with very colorful traditional outfits and a mask for the bull. In the dance the bull represents the strength of a community.

This dancing group is a beautiful example of the vibrancy and diversity of our parish.



Hispanic Ministry at Good Shepherd:

Love God and make disciples.

Contributed by Mayra Luna, Hispanic Committee Chair

Our Hispanic Committee coordinates a variety of activities throughout the year for our Spanish-speaking parishioners, but all our church members are welcome to participate.



Some of the biggest events that they plan have become annual traditions here and help Good Shepherd grow in unity and faith. November and December bring some of the most special of these events.

On **Tuesday**, **October 26**, the committee will be preparing the altar of the dead in the church gathering area. The Latino community has a tradition called **Day of the Dead**, that is related to **All Souls Day**. Some even make an altar in their homes remembering deceased family members or friends each year at this time. Our parish altar of the dead will be full of colorful decorations and hold photos of our parishioners who have passed away this past year. It will remain up through November.

December 4 will begin the **Novena of the Virgin of Guadalupe**. Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patroness of the Americas is especially important to all Catholic Americans but Latino Catholics have a special devotion to her as her apparitions occurred in Mexico. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on **Dec. 12**. Each evening of the novena leading up to the feast day, members of our Hispanic committee will lead the Rosary in Spanish in the church at 7:00pm. All are welcome to join in the prayers every night or even just one. The feast day celebrations and devotions on December 12 will begin with mañanitas in the church at 5:00am. There will be a Rosary and songs and at the end everyone will be invited to the PLC to have a hot chocolate with bread. In the evening there will be a procession, a dramatization of the apparition of the Virgin to St. Juan Diego, and Mass in Spanish followed by supper, songs, and dances.

On **December 15**, **Posadas** will start. Posadas are a way to remember the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and looking for a place to stay before the birth of Jesus. Each evening different families will offer their home to "welcome Joseph and Mary". Be sure to watch the bulletin and newsletters in early December for details on addresses and times. The last posada is hosted by the Hispanic Committee at the PLC on **December 23**. There will be food and a living Nativity and the whole parish community is welcome!







Ministerio Hispano en Good Shepherd

Amar a Dios y hacer discípulos.

Contribuido por Mayra Luna, presidenta del Comité Hispano

Nuestro Comité Hispano coordina una variedad de actividades durante todo el año para nuestros feligreses de habla hispana, pero todos los miembros de nuestra iglesia son bienvenidos a participar.



Algunos de los eventos más importantes que planean se han convertido en tradiciones anuales aquí y ayudan al Buen Pastor a crecer en unidad y fe. Noviembre y diciembre traen algunos de los eventos más especiales.

El martes 26 de octubre, el comité preparará el altar de los muertos en el área de reunión de la iglesia. La comunidad latina tiene una tradición llamada Día de los Muertos, que está relacionada con el Día de los Fieles Difuntos. Algunos incluso hacen un altar en sus hogares recordando a familiares o amigos fallecidos cada año en esta época. Nuestro altar parroquial de los muertos estará lleno de decoraciones coloridas y tendrá fotos de nuestros feligreses que fallecieron el año pasado. Permanecerá hasta noviembre.

El 4 de diciembre comenzará la Novena de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como Patrona de las Américas es especialmente importante para todos los católicos estadounidenses, pero los católicos latinos tienen una devoción especial por ella, ya que sus apariciones ocurrieron en México. La fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se celebra el 12 de diciembre. Cada noche de la novena previa al día de la fiesta, los miembros de nuestro comité hispano dirigirán el Rosario en español en la iglesia a las 7:00 p.m. Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a las oraciones todas las noches o incluso solo una. Las celebraciones y devociones del día festivo del 12 de diciembre comenzarán con mañanitas en la iglesia a las 5:00 a.m. Habrá un Rosario y cantos y al final todos serán invitados al PLC para tomar un chocolate caliente con pan. Por la noche habrá una procesión, una dramatización de la aparición de la Virgen a San Juan Diego y una misa en español seguida de cena, cantos y bailes.

El 15 de diciembre comenzarán las posadas. Las posadas son una forma de recordar el viaje de José y María a Belén y buscar un lugar para quedarse antes del nacimiento de Jesús. Cada noche, diferentes familias ofrecerán su hogar para "dar la bienvenida a José y María". Asegúrese de ver el boletín y los boletines a principios de diciembre para obtener detalles sobre direcciones y horarios. La última posada es organizada por el Comité Hispano en el PLC el 23 de diciembre. ¡Habrá comida y un Belén viviente y toda la comunidad parroquial es bienvenida!







¡Nuevo Programa de Educación Financiera para la Comunidad Hispana Comienza en Enero de 2026!



Este mes de enero, Good Shepherd se complace en lanzar la primera Serie de Talleres de Educación Financiera, creada especialmente para nuestra vibrante Comunidad Hispana de Good Shepherd. La idea para este programa surgió después de nuestra Campaña de Capital de 2024, cuando reconocimos la oportunidad de seguir construyendo unidad dentro de nuestra familia parroquial y de apoyarnos mutuamente en todas las áreas de la vida, incluyendo la administración fiel de los recursos que Dios nos ha confiado.

En colaboración con **Traditional Bank**, los participantes recibirán herramientas prácticas y orientación en temas clave como Banca, Presupuesto, Ahorro y Donaciones. La serie incluirá cuatro talleres mensuales, que se llevarán a cabo un domingo al mes después de la Misa de las 11:30 a.m. e incluirán almuerzo.



Las sesiones se ofrecerán en un ambiente acogedor y en español, para fomentar el aprendizaje, la convivencia y el crecimiento personal y comunitario. Todos los feligreses son bienvenidos.

"Estamos muy emocionados por este nuevo programa," dijo Cricket Hater, Directora de Mayordomía. "Nuestro objetivo es acompañar a las familias en su crecimiento, no solo espiritual, sino también en las decisiones cotidianas que las ayudan a prosperar."

Con el apoyo de una subvención de \$2,000 del fondo de Misión y Ministerio de la Diócesis de Lexington, esta iniciativa refleja el compromiso continuo de Good Shepherd con el servicio, la educación y la unidad. A través del aprendizaje compartido y la fe, la Serie de Talleres de Educación Financiera ayudará a las familias a fortalecer su confianza, estabilidad y generosidad durante muchos años.

Para obtener más información o registrarse, comuníquese con Cricket en la oficina parroquial.









New Financial Literacy Program for the Hispanic Community Begins January 2026!

This January, Good Shepherd is thrilled to launch the first Financial Literacy Workshop Series, created especially for our vibrant Good Shepherd Hispanic Community. The idea for this program grew after our 2024 Capital Campaign, as we recognized an opportunity to continue building unity within our parish family and to support one another in every area of life—including the faithful stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to us.

In partnership with Traditional Bank, participants will gain practical tools and guidance in key areas such as Banking, Budgeting, Saving, and Giving. The series will include four monthly workshops, each held one Sunday a month following the 11:30 a.m. Mass and including lunch. Sessions will be offered in a welcoming, Spanish-language setting to encourage learning, fellowship, and personal and community growth. All parishioners are welcome.



"We are so excited about this new program," said Cricket Hater, Director of Stewardship. "Our goal is to walk alongside families as they grow—not only spiritually, but also in the everyday decisions that help them thrive."

Supported by a \$2,000 Mission and Ministry grant through the Diocese of Lexington, this initiative reflects Good Shepherd's ongoing commitment to service, education, and unity. Through shared learning and faith, the Financial Literacy Workshop Series will help families build confidence, stability, and generosity for years to come.

For more information or to register, please contact Cricket in the parish office.











BUDGETING FOR GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH From the Good Shepherd Parish Finance Council

The Lexington Diocese requests the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Parish budget, which is separate from the Good Shepherd Catholic School budget, be adopted by Sept. 1 each year. The Parish budget covers the operations of the Parish: salaries and benefits, utilities, building and grounds maintenance, ministry support, music, liturgy items, equipment and maintenance, etc.

With the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) budgeting complete, the Good Shepherd Finance Council turns its attention to the future. Not only does this include anticipating current year fluctuations in income (primarily offertory) and analysis of possible expenses, but also it includes consideration of what Good Shepherd Parish *will* need in the longer-range future.

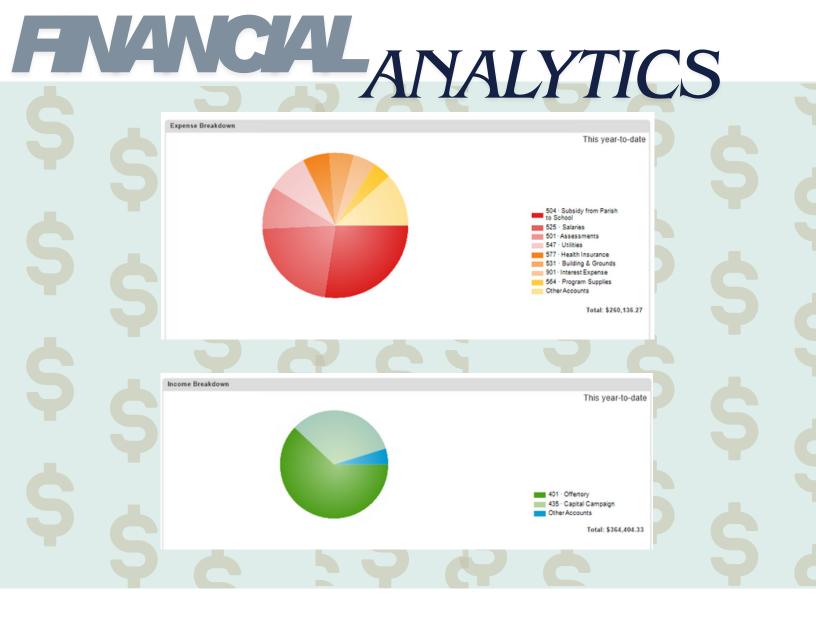
Please note the verb in the previous sentence is **will**, not *may*. As buildings age and grounds mature, there will be maintenance expenses. What will need replacing (air conditioner compressors do not last forever, for example)? What will need updating (switching to cheaper and more efficient LED lighting is not just changing bulbs). When will the parking lot need to be resurfaced? Will there be increased ministries and at what expense? What will be the staffing needs? Is the Parish adequately insured? Will the Lexington Diocese impose an increase in the annual assessment the Parish must remit to support the Diocesan operations?

The Good Shepherd Finance Council is formed under the guidelines established in the Catechism and by the Diocese. It is a required council. With its duties prescribed, the Finance Council pledges a commitment to transparency. The Finance Council may be considered a watchdog or a guardian, but it is most importantly representative of the parishioners. Its duty is to reflect the needs of the Parish and guide the efforts to secure adequate income and ensure that expenses meet specific needs. Everything must be justified, explained, and defended.

The Finance Council also must listen to the parishioners. It must consider questions raised about finances and the contributions expected of parishioners. A recent question inquired about the number of special collection requests coming from the Diocese.

The Finance Council cannot control the Diocesan requests, but it can inform the Parish of what the request is for and when it will happen. This information can guide parishioners' giving. Please see the accompanying list of special collections coming in 2026. Use this information to wisely plan your generous giving.

Accompanying graphs are for the 2025-25 fiscal year.





2026 Scheduled Lexington Diocese Collections

The Lexington Diocese issues the directive to all parishes in the Diocese to make the following special collection requests of all parishioners.

- January 18 for Opportunities for Life
- January 25 for the Church in Latin America
- February 18 (Ash Wednesday) Rice Bowl Lenten Program begins
- February 22 for Missions among Black and Native Americans
- March 15 (Laetare Sunday) for Catholic Relief Services
- April 3 for the Holy Land
- April 26 for Home Missions
- May 17 for Catholic Communications Campaign
- June 28 Peter's Pence for the Holy Father
- July 19 for the Church in Eastern and Central Europe
- August 16 for Seminarian Higher Education
- September 6 Crossroads Sunday
- September 13 for Formation of Ordained and Lay Ministers
- September 19 Diocesan Annual Appeal campaign begins
- October 18 for World Missions
- November 1 for the Church in Africa
- November 15 for Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- December 13 for Retirement Funding for Religious

Good Shepherd Parish requests optional special donations for the following. Specific 2026 dates have not been set. Some requests are fulfilled without a specific date as parishioners may donate to ministries at any time. Donations may be made online at https://www.osvhub.com/goodshepherdky/giving/funds.

- Bereavement Ministry
- Flowers for Christmas
- · Flowers for Easter
- Good Shepherd School Endowment
- Good Shepherd School General Fund
- Good Shepherd School Tuition Assistance
- Hispanic Ministry
- Holy Day: All Saints Day (November 1) to supplement the Parish offertory
- Holy Day: Assumption (August 15) to supplement the Parish offertory
- Holy Day: Christmas
- Holy Day: Easter (April 5)
- Holy Day: Immaculate Conception (December 8) to supplement the Parish offertory
- Holy Mary, Mother of God (January 1) to supplement the Parish offertory
- Music Ministry



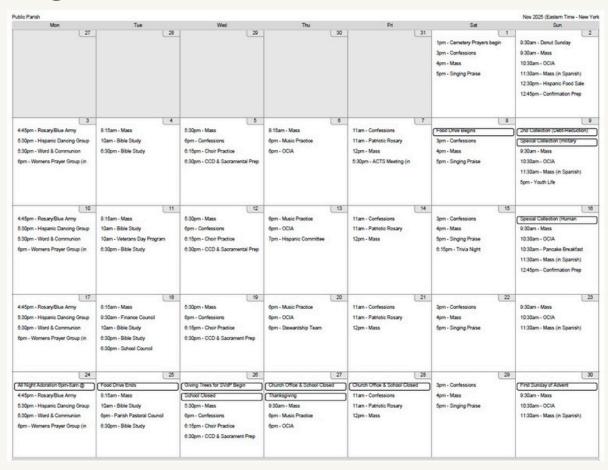
Watch for our Weekly Video Announcements on



www.frankfortgoodshepherd.org

Parish Calendars

NOVEMBER



Printable Calendars

December

Mon	Tue		Wed	Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun
29		30	31		1		2		3	I
urch Office Closed	-					2.		3pm - Confessions		9:30am - Donut Sunday
			Opm - Evening PrayeriAl Night Adora	ton	$\overline{}$	11am - Confessions	_	4pm - Mass		9:30am - Mass
				Holy Day: Mary, Mother of G	_	11am - Patriotic Rosary		5pm - Singing Praise		10:30am - OCIA
								chin - Suiding Linese		
				9:30am - Mass		12pm - Mass				11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
										12:30pm - Epiphany Party
										12:45pm - Confirmation Prep
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65pm - Rosary/Blue Army	8:15am - Mass	-	5:30pm - Mass	6pm - Music Practice	-	11am - Confessions	-	3pm - Confessions	-	2nd Collection (Dect-Reduction
			The second secon	6pm - OCIA		11am - Patriotic Rosary				9:30am - Mass
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study		6pm - Confessions	Control of the Contro				4pm - Mass		
om - Womens Prayer Group (in			6:15pm - Choir Practice	7pm - Hispanic Committee		12pm - Mass		5pm - Singing Praise		10:30am - OCIA
			6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep							11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
										5pm - Youth Life
12		13	14		15		16		17	
45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	8:15am - Mass		5:30pm - Mass	6pm - Music Practice	-	11am - Confessions		3pm - Confessions		9:30am - Mass
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study		The state of the s	6pm - OCIA		11am - Patriotic Rosary		4pm - Mass		10:30am - OCIA
	0:3Upm - Bible Study		6pm - Confessions							
pm - Womens Prayer Group (in			6:15pm - Choir Practice	6pm - Stewardship Team		12pm - Mass		5pm - Singing Praise		10:30am - Pancake Breakfast
			6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep							11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
										12-45pm - Confirmation Prep
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nurch Office and School Closed	8:15am - Mass		5:30pm - Mass	6pm - Music Practice	2811111	11am - Confessions		3pm - Confessions		2nd Collection (GSS Tutton
45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	9:30am - Finance Council		6pm - Confessions	6pm - OCIA		11am - Patriotic Rosary		4pm - Mass		Carnotic Schools Week begins
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study		6:15pm - Choir Practice			12pm - Mass		5pm - Singing Praise		9:30am - Mass
om - Womens Prayer Group (in	6:30pm - School Council		6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep					6:30pm - Trivia Night		10:30am - OCIA
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										11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
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26		27	28		29		30		31	
Night Adoration 6pm-8am	8:15am - Mass	5:30pm - Mass	ôpm - Music Practice		11am - Confessions		3pm - Confessions			
45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	6pm - Parish Pastoral Counc		6pm - Confessions	6pm - OCIA		11am - Patriotic Rosary		4pm - Mass		
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study		6:15pm - Choir Practice			12pm - Mass		5pm - Singing Praise		
m - Womens Prayer Group (in			6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep							

January

Mon	Tue		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		Sun
1		2	3	4	5		6	
45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	8:15am - Mass		5:30pm - Mass	5pm - ACTS Retreat Begins	11am - Confessions	3pm - Confessions		Second Sunday of Advent
30pm - Hispanic Dancing Group	10am - Bible Study		6pm - Confessions	6pm - Music Practice	11am - Patriotic Rosary	4pm - Mass		Special Collection (Hetired
					The state of the s			
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study		6:15pm - Choir Practice	6pm - OCIA	12pm - Mass	5pm - Singing Praise		9:30am - Donut Sunday
pm - Womens Prayer Group (in			6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep	7pm - Novena begins for Our Lady				9:30am - Mass
								10:30am - OCIA
								11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
								12:30pm - Hispanic Food Sale
								12:45pm - Confirmation Prep
								12-spin - Commission Prep
8		9	10	11	12		13	
hurch Office Closed	8:15am - Mass		5:30pm - Mass	Com - Music Practice	Feast of Our Lady of Guadatupe	3om - Confessions	10	2nd Collection (Debt Reduction
loly Day. Immaculate Conception	10am - Bible Study		6pm - Confessions	6pm - OCIA	Mass (Time TBA)	4pm - Mass		Third Sunday of Advent
				opin- ocas)		
:15am - Mass	6:30pm - Bible Study		6:15pm - Choir Practice		5am - Mañanitas	5pm - Singing Praise		9:30am - Mass
:45pm - Rosary/Blue Army			6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep		11am - Confessions			10:30am - OCIA
:30pm - Hispanic Dancing Group								11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
lpm - Mass								5pm - Youth Life
pm - Womens Prayer Group (in								
15		16	17	18	19		20	
osadas begin	8:15am - Mass		5:30pm - Mass	6pm - Music Practice	11am - Confessions	3pm - Confessions	12.13	Giving Trees End
:45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	9:30am - Finance Council		6pm - Confessions	6pm - OCIA	11am - Early School Dismissal	4pm - Mass		9:30am - Mass
30pm - Word & Communion	10am - Bible Study		6:15pm - Choir Practice	6pm - Stewardship Team	11am - Patriotic Rosary	5pm - Singing Praise		10:30am - OCIA
				opin - Some Carip Team		Spin - Singing France		
pm - Womens Prayer Group (in	6pm - School Christmas		6:30pm - CCD & Sacrament Prep		12pm - Mass			10:30am - Pancakes with San
	6:30pm - Bible Study							11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
								12:45pm - Confirmation Prep
-					1000			
22 45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	8:15am - Mass	23	Church Office Closed	25	26		27	
30pm - Word & Communion	6:30pm - Bible Study					3pm - Confessions		9:30am - Mass
	0.3upm - Bible 3tudy		CULREDICAL FAR	Holy Day: Christmas	J			
ôpm - Womens Prayer Group (in			11:30pm - Christmas Mass (Blingual)			4pm - Mass		10:30am - OCIA
			5pm - Mass	9:30am - Mass		5pm - Singing Praise		11:30am - Mass (in Spanish)
			11pm - Christmas Carols in Church					
29		30	31	1	2		3	
Thurch Office Closed		30	31			5	3	
45pm - Rosary/Blue Army	6:30pm - Bible Study		Com - Evening Prayer At Night Adors	son				
:30pm - Word & Communion								
lpm - Womens Prayer Group (in								

Mround Good Shepherd

Back to School Bash 2025















GSP PTO FESTIVAL















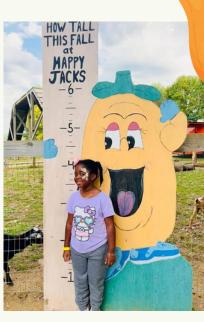












Fiesta Lativa









Rosary Rallies









MINISTRY FAIR









2025 Parish Picnic







MORE PICNIC 2025



















MORE Good Shepherd













