



Good Shepherd Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 23 & 24, 2017



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Saturday September 23
4:00PM Jean Mayton ~ Bill & Janet Kringe

Sunday September 24
8:00AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
10:00AM Ashleyann Temborski ~ Mother, Ann & Daughter, Rhianna

Monday September 25
8:00AM Louis J. Beltrami ~ M/M John Tomsho

Tuesday September 26
8:00AM John Sypek ~ Albert & Mary Ellen Antolick

Wednesday September 27
8:00AM Barbara Kranz ~ Sister, Donna

Thursday September 28
8:00AM Mary Polashenski ~ Edward & Jessica Polashenski

Friday September 29
8:00AM Marian Matusick Chavez ~ Parents

Saturday September 30
4:00PM Joseph J. Generose, Jr. ~ M/M Timothy Gombeda & Family

Sunday October 1
8:00AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
10:00AM Donna Generose ~ Larry & Gary Generose and Heather Generose Busch

First Friday Devotions: On Friday, October 6, following the 8:00AM Mass, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Devotions, and closing Benediction. Please join us if you are free.



An Overnight or Its Equivalent Each Week: For quite a while, the Pastoral Council and others have strongly suggested I take an overnight each week. In October, Fr. Steve will take the daily Masses on October 17, 18, 19, and 20, which would be the equivalent of a day per week. I will try to do the same for November. When I am unable to get this type of coverage, I will have to take either Tuesday or Thursday off. Tuesday is usually the lowest-attended daily Mass while Thursday would probably be the best day for me, giving some extra energy going into the weekend. You will receive plenty of notice on this.

Scripture Sessions: This Thursday, September 28, I will examine the different roles of those in positions of authority in the early Church. I will look at the apostles, the Twelve, bishops, presbyters, deacons, household Church leaders, etc., who celebrated the Eucharist, and other sacraments will be addressed in the presentations. I encourage you to attend if you are free. I demand accuracy from myself, whether in Scripture or sports articles, etc. Quite a few of those attending have a nice knowledge of Scripture and can supplement what I present and raise fine questions.

Student Faith Formation: 108 students were registered for the first week of Faith Formation. More should be registered. We missed quite a few students who should be in the 7th grade class which will receive Confirmation in 2019. If students in the 7th grade class opt not to participate in Faith Formation this year, they will not be accepted into the Confirmation class next year. We cannot allow students to be confirmed who did not participate in our full program. We are back to a large First Communion class of over 20 after a few years numbering in the mid-teens. I was certainly not impressed with the joint Confirmation class. Despite a beautiful liturgy, a low number of students attended Mass regularly this summer and the highest number I ever experienced failed to pick up pictures and other Confirmation materials. Spiritually speaking, I would rate the 2017 Confirmation, from our standpoint, a failure, not through the lack of efforts by our

Stewardship

684 families received envelopes.
 Offertory Envelopes for the weekend 9/16:

MASS TIME	NUMBER OF FAMILIES OFFERING	AMOUNT OF OFFERING	ATTENDANCE AT MASS
4:00PM	73	\$ 956.00	183
8:00AM	60	\$ 753.00	142
10:00AM	77	\$1,039.00	229
	Loose	\$ 349.30	
	Total	\$3,097.30	554

Worship

The Tabernacle Candle burns this week in memory of **Paul & Jacqueline Cattabiani** by M/M Frederick Proske.

The Rose for Life this week is for **Pasquale Ferrari** by M/M Stephen Michalochick. **A second Rose for Life** is in memory of **Darlene Sweet Beck** by mother, Shirley Sweet.

Coordinator, Youth Minister, teachers, and myself who all gave a great deal of time and effort to the program. I know I spent more time with this past year's Confirmation class than with any other classes I had at Good Shepherd or other parishes that I served. I don't wish to be negative, but it is what it is. Each new Faith Formation year affords us a new opportunity to do better than in the past.

Mass at Providence Place: Fr. McHugh is scheduled to offer Mass at Providence Place on Tuesday, October 3, at 10:00 AM.

Word

Theme – God's Ways Are Not Our Ways: The first reading from the prophet Isaiah exhorts us to turn to God for mercy because God is generous beyond our imagination. We cannot totally understand God who thinks quite differently than we do. The great prophet of hope, Isaiah, understands this. God's ways and thoughts are far above our own. Responsorial Psalm 145 blends in well with the Gospel. The psalmist insists that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him. He, too, praises the generosity of God and His unlimited compassion. The Lord is truly deserving of our praise even though we do not fully grasp His ways. St. Paul, in the short selection from Romans, speaks about being torn between two worlds - being with Christ, or laboring among the community. Paul feels it would be wonderful to die and be with Christ, but reasons that it is good for him to remain alive for the benefit of the community. The Gospel for today is Jesus' Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard. This parable certainly illustrates that God's ways are not our ways. The generosity of the landowner represents the liberality of God. He is willing to give people more than they deserve. The landowner is much like the loving father in Luke's Parable of the Prodigal Son. The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard declares we should not be envious of those who have more than we do.

Praying With Scripture:

1. Have you ever felt resentful of God's apparent goodness to others?
2. Think of how, by practicing generosity, you can lift up others.
3. Pray for the ability to rejoice in the good fortunes of others.

Parish Breakfast: The parish breakfast is Sunday, October 1st. Please try to support it.

Hurricane Harvey Collection: Thank you for your fine generosity in responding to the collection for Hurricane Harvey victims. The initial September 10th weekend collection amounted to \$2,025.

Hurricane Collection 2: As expected, a second hurricane collection will be taken up this weekend at all the Masses for the recent Florida and Virgin Islands hurricane victims.

Scripture Presentation: Fr. McHugh will offer a live Scripture presentation on Catholicfmradio.com on Wednesday, October 4, from 7:30 until 8:30 PM. It will be on YouTube a few days after the presentation. Simply type in "Father McHugh Biblical Narratives" to view it. I will continually have Scripture videos on YouTube for those who cannot attend the Thursday morning sessions.

Communion Ministers: We are in need of these. One must be a good practicing Catholic to become one. Contact me if you are interested. Even though we don't have any RCIA candidates at present, we do need a team leader and also team members.

Ending a Subpar Summer on a Few Lucky

Happenings: This past summer was the worst I can remember for me personally, with radiation treatments and a lack of energy. Perhaps things will go differently. I was lucky enough to get the last Jane Train Diary album at the Gallery of Sound, the last stuffed pepper at Jimmy's on my most recent trip there, and the last print of Jim Malady's most popular work, *Billy Mulligan and Mrs. O'Shea Having Lunch*. Mrs. O'Shea is a cat.

FR. CONNELL'S TRIVIA

Boxers Nicknamed "Hurricane"

1. This top middleweight contender who had his murder conviction overturned many years later was the subject of a well-done successful movie made of his life. Can you name him?
2. This feeble-minded (retarded) boxer became a top-ten contender for the heavyweight title and lost to Floyd Patterson in his bid for the heavyweight crown. Can you name him?

Last Week's Answers:

1. George Lehman, who played in the Eastern Professional Basketball League for 4 years, was the first player to popularize the 3-point shot in the ABA. His shots were nicknamed "Screamin' Lehmans."
2. Joe Holup was the Swoyersville star who helped defeat a strong 1950-51 Hazleton team and later starred for George Washington and played in the NBA.

Community

Tuesday Night Bingo at Good Shepherd Church starts with our Early Bird game at 6:00 PM. We

play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Our regular games pay \$100 each. The kitchen opens at 5:00PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. We also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to our players (and volunteers).





The Valley Food Pantry helps those in need of food, paper products, and hygienic articles. We have been asked to collect peanut butter and jelly, fruit cocktail, toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues. Please check expiration dates.



Book Sale: Drop off your books, children's games, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and records beginning **Monday, October 2**, for the Book Sale being held on **Saturday, October 14, from 8 AM – 2 PM, and Sunday, October**

15, from 11 AM – 2 PM. Prices are: \$2 – hard cover, \$1 – soft cover, 4 for \$1 - children's, \$1 – CDs/tapes/records, and \$1 – kids' games. The Sunday Special is \$5 per bag, and we'll supply the bags! We are not accepting Reader's Digest, magazines, encyclopedias, or textbooks. Lunch items will be available for purchase.

Harvest Bingo: The MMI Parents Association is sponsoring their annual Harvest Bingo on Sunday, October 1, in the MMI Gymnasium, 154 Centre Street, Freeland. Doors open at noon. Early bid games start at 1:00 PM with regular games to follow. Admission is \$5.00. There will be cash and door prizes, tricky trays, a \$500 jackpot, and great food! For more information, call the school at 570-636-1108.

VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children for Adults Program will be held at **Holy Family Academy, Hazleton**, on **Sunday, October 1**, beginning at **1:00 PM**. The session will take place in the school cafeteria. **This training session is required for all adult volunteers who have direct or routine interaction with children.** During the three-hour training session, a facilitator will incorporate techniques in a discussion format to help you recognize the warning signs of child sexual abuse and how to respond to it appropriately and effectively. If you are interested in attending the training session, please call the Holy Family office at 570-455-9431 to register.



Cash Bingo: Diamond Fire Company #2 of Hazleton is sponsoring a Fall Bingo on Sunday, October 23, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Doors open at Noon. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Special Bingo papers are special cash prizes. Kitchen specials will benefit Good Shepherd Church. For advance tickets or questions, call John Nilles at 570-401-1767.

The Shepherd's Hands

Matinee Movie Presentation: As part of our parish's closing celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, a matinee movie about Our Lady of Fatima will be shown on **Sunday, October 8**, at the Cinema & Draffthouse in West Hazleton. **Doors open at Noon and the movie will begin at 12:30 PM.** Admission is free and door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the movie. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. An approximate number of attendees must be known in advance to ensure enough servers at the venue. To reserve your ticket, please complete the coupon below and place it in the collection basket as soon as possible.

Matinee Movie Presentation

Name _____

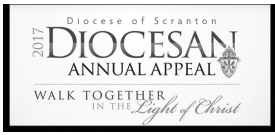
Number of People Attending _____

Phone Number _____

The Women of Good Shepherd

Please remember to pick up your Back-to-School subs following this weekend's Masses. Faith Formation may pick up their hoagies on Monday before or after class. Thanks to all who purchased a sub or made a donation. Special thanks to Vesuvio's in Drums for making them.

We had a good time at our last meeting playing a fast-paced dice game called "Tenzi." We also planned some upcoming events and fundraisers. Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 9, at 6:30 PM.** Please bring a small bag of Halloween candy. We will be getting ready for our Children's Pumpkin Painting event which will be held on **Monday, October 23.** More information about the event will be forthcoming. Membership is open to all women of Good Shepherd Church.



PARISH LIFE & MINISTRY FORMATION

“Serving one another by supporting our parish communities”

Our Catholic life comes alive in the parish because our parish is the gathering of God’s faithful people. Connecting with our fellow parishioners, reinforcing our beliefs, and experiencing the joy of coming together are vital for everyone to fully experience our Catholic faith. It is crucial that we foster a rich parish life where neighbors, families, and friends come together in the spirit of Catholic fellowship. The Office for Parish Life assists in all aspects of Liturgy & Worship, Service & Social Concerns, Community, and Family Development. Your gifts fund such programs as networking and training for Youth Ministry Leaders, Directors of Religious Education, Music and Liturgical Ministry, Bereavement Support, Social Concerns, and Parish Councils.

My September Song

My September song
Is a soft dirge
Played by endlessly falling leaves
Quickly cluttering October payments.

My September song
Is a lonely memory
Of happy school children – my friends
Whispering on a fall evening.

My September song
Is a cold autumn wind
Freezing warm hearts
Subtly spreading loneliness.

My September song
Is a stinging football
Bouncing off a frozen finger
Landing on a hard turf.

My September song
Is a kaleidoscope of emptiness,
A repertoire of sad songs,
A collection of melancholy thoughts.

Rev. Connell A. McHugh