

# Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

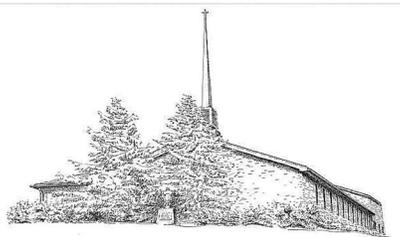
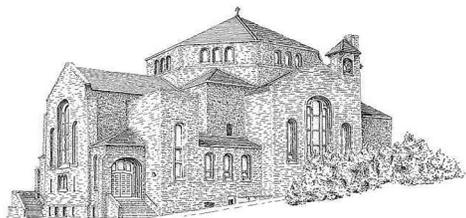
1024 Maple Way  
Braddock PA 15104-1612

*December 27, 2015*

Parish Office: 412-271-1515  
Fax: 412-271-1222

Website: [www.goodshepherdbraddock.org](http://www.goodshepherdbraddock.org)

Serving the Communities of Braddock, Braddock Hills, East Pittsburgh,  
North Braddock and Rankin.



## Good Shepherd Church

Braddock Avenue at Frazier Street  
Braddock PA 15104-1612

*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

## Sacred Heart Church

1600 Brinton Road  
Braddock Hills PA 15221-4902

## Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM  
Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM

Weekday Mass: Monday—Thursday—9:00 AM  
Sunday: 11:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday at 3:00 PM at Good Shepherd Church or by appointment

## Parish Staff

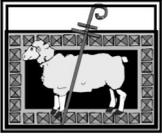
Reverend Albert J. Semler, Pastor  
Deacon Joseph M. Dougherty  
Mrs. Michele Catone, Parish Secretary ([micky52@comcast.net](mailto:micky52@comcast.net))  
Ms. Carol Funk, Parish Office Manager  
Mr. Frank Koncerak, Director of Maintenance  
Sr. Judith Stojhovic

## Parish Telephone Numbers

Parish Office: .....412-271-1515  
Phone: .....412-351-3710  
Fax.....412-271-1222  
e-mail.....[gshepoffice@comcast.net](mailto:gshepoffice@comcast.net)  
East Catholic.....412-351-5403  
School Fax:.....412-273-9114

- **Sacrament of Baptism:** Please call the Parish Office at 412-271-1515. Previous arrangements are necessary.
- **Instruction in the Faith:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. Contact the Parish Office at 412-271-1515.
- **Sacrament of Marriage:** The prospective bride & groom are to make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the Wedding. All couples are required to attend a marriage preparation class.
- **Parish Prayer Line:** Intentions may be placed on the Prayer Line by contacting Joanne at 412-271-8690 or email [tjsjrfhi3@verizon.net](mailto:tjsjrfhi3@verizon.net)
- **New Parishioners are always welcome.** Call the Parish Office to register or to notify of a change of address.

**We are an “On Mission for the Church Alive” Faith Community.**



**December 27, 2015**

***From the Pastor's Desk***

***THE HOLY FAMILY OF  
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. May the Good Lord continue to watch over and bless you. May we continue to grow in God's love in a very spiritual way.

Father John at St. Maurice and I have arranged two New Year's Eve Masses. The Mass at St. Maurice will be at 5:00 PM and ours at Sacred Heart will be at 7:00 PM.

Mass on January 1st will be at 9:00 AM at Good Shepherd Church.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, gifts and goodies you sent my way for Christmas and Birthday. It was just another reminder why Good Shepherd Parish is someplace special.

**FINAL NOTICE**

This is a final notice to invite you to make a special, tax saving gift to Good Shepherd Parish for the 2015 tax year. All checks must be dated by December 31, 2015. Kindly make your gift to the Good Shepherd Parish Share Program so that we can receive the greatest value.

**MINISTER SCHEDULE**

PLEASE REMEMBER your sign ups for December 31 and January 1, 2, & 3. But I am not worried because I know you are willing to come up if we are short of ministers.

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:**

We are still in those early bulletin deadline days so all collection reports for December 20, 27 and January 3 will be published in the January 10th bulletin.

**ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!**

If we get too caught up in the secular celebration of Christmas, we may experience that day-after feeling of "is that all there is?" There is nothing wrong with all the lights and jingle bells if we remember what we are celebrating: the birth of Jesus. We are called to become His disciples, to live out our faith in love and service. That is the work of formation that must go on in us every day of the year. Make today another step in your formation as a disciple of Jesus.

To read more, check out "On Mission for The Church Alive!" on page 5 of this week's Pittsburgh Catholic and visit [www.OnMissionChurchAlive.org](http://www.OnMissionChurchAlive.org).

**HOLY DOOR**

In response to Pope Francis' call for Catholics to seek and experience God's mercy through a Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop Zubik opened a Holy Door in Saint Paul Cathedral, Oakland, on Sunday, December 13.

Pilgrims and penitents pass through a Holy Door as a sign that they are leaving behind their past and crossing the threshold from sin to grace. The door will remain open through the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on November 20, 2016.

Saint Paul Cathedral is open daily from 5:30 AM to 8:00 PM. The Holy Door is located off the Cathedral parking lot and is wheelchair accessible.

More information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy is online at [www.diopitt.org/jubilee-year-mercy](http://www.diopitt.org/jubilee-year-mercy).

Pope Francis calls the Jubilee a "revolution of mercy" that he prays will lead to forgiveness, love and a reduction in violence worldwide. Discovering God's love starts a cycle that "leads us to acting in a way that's more tolerant, patient, tender," he said in a recent interview.

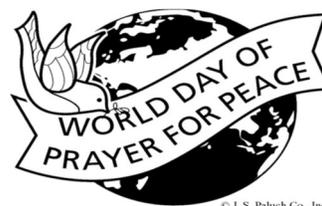
"Our dear Pope Francis has called for this Holy Year to be a time that you and I can experience the close and tender love and mercy of God. My hope and prayer is that you and I will have a conversion of heart and soul during this Holy Year of Mercy," Bishop Zubik said. "In turn we are called to share that love and mercy with others, thus making God's mercy ever more visible by our words and deeds."

The act of passing through the Holy Door of Mercy is more than symbolic for those who have prepared spiritually to do so. Pope Francis has authorized an indulgence for baptized Catholics who have already received absolution in the Sacrament of Confession, received the Eucharist, prayed according to Pope Francis' intentions, and who are consciously seeking an indulgence. An indulgence doesn't remove punishment for sin in the afterlife-which is done through Confession -but it heals the aftereffects of sins in the here and now.

Pope Francis opened a Holy Door at Saint Peter Basilica on December 8, the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has encouraged bishops worldwide to open their own Holy Door of Mercy.

**THE GIVING TREE**

As I sit here in my office today, I keep hearing the door bell ring. It means another family is being blessed by the gifts from our "Giving Tree." I hear the grateful voices of very grateful people. The joy of the Christ Child is gently heard. Thank You.



*Peace and Love,  
Fr. Semler*

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### MONTHLY COMMEMORATIVE MASS

Our MCC will be held this Wednesday, December 30th (our usual day is Thursday).

The first MCC in the New Year will be Wednesday, January 27th at 9:00 AM at Sacred Heart. **All MCCs in 2016 will be held on the last Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated in the bulletin.**

Intentions for January should be turned in by Wednesday, January 20th.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

### 2016 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

**If you haven't picked up your contribution envelopes for the new year, they will be at the Parish Office. You may pick them up at the office or you can let us know to take them to Good Shepherd Church or Sacred Heart Church.**

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Members of Council will meet on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Hall. Please call the Parish Office if you cannot attend.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

**At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our "brothers and sisters" who need our help.**

**St. Vincent de Paul phone: 412-437-8370**

### ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!

*Prayer for On Mission for The Church Alive!*

**Father of Mercy,**

**As we journey On Mission for The Church Alive!,**

**Endow us with your gifts of**

**collaboration, courage and compassion.**

**Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.**

**Raise up selfless, energetic leaders**

**to serve the Church in fidelity and with care.**

**May we, the Church of Pittsburgh**

**in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene,**

**Lawrence and Washington Counties,**

**be sustained and strengthened by your grace.**

**Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus and to live Jesus.**

**Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ our**

**Lord, with the help of our dear Blessed Mother,**

**under the mantle of her love, Amen**

***Stewardship: Time - Talent - Treasure***

**Collections for December 20, 27 and January 3 will be published in the January 10th Bulletin.**

### EAST CATHOLIC SCHOOL WALKING TOURS for the 2016-2017 School Year

Choosing the right school for your child is a very intuitive decision. Many parents say that they just know in their gut, while touring a school, which school environment is the best fit for them and their child.

The school tours are conducted during school hours. This will allow parents to observe the children in the classroom, learn about the programs, meet our teachers and find out more about the East Catholic School philosophy. Tours include classroom observation as well as a guided tour of the facility. Parents will receive an application with additional information for them to consider.

To sign up for a tour: Contact the School Office between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm at 412-351-5403.

**East Catholic School Walking Tour Dates are as follows: January 6 and 20 at 9:30 am, January 31 2016 Open House, February 9 and 23 at 9:30 am and March 2 at 9:30 am. A special tour will be on Sunday March 13, 2016 ( at Story Time) scheduled for 2:00 pm.**

### EAST CATHOLIC GALA

We are again planning to have our **East Catholic Gala** this school year. Please save the date of Saturday, February 27, 2016 for an evening of fun, great prizes, and good food and dancing. It will be held at Stratigos Banquet Facility. This is an over 21 event. Ticket price is \$85.00 per person and they are now on sale. Included in the price are: hors d'oeuvres and sit down dinner, complimentary beer and wine table, music and dancing, featuring "The Soul Searchers" with Father John.

There will also be live and silent auctions, games of chance and \$1,000 raffle and ten \$100 prizes.

Any questions, please contact: Amie & Kenny Cooley at 412-260-2989, or you may email them to [amie4dance@msn.com](mailto:amie4dance@msn.com), or Laurie & Lou Del Rosso, 412-841-8767 or email [ldelrosso3@gmail.com](mailto:ldelrosso3@gmail.com)

**ARE YOU REGISTERED?** All Catholics need a place of worship to call "home." If you regularly worship with us but are not registered now is the time to make it official. Please complete a confidential census form which are in the Gathering Space and return it to the office. Please call the office at 412-271-1515 if you have any questions.



**THE HOLY FAMILY OF**  
**JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

We think of the wondrous and faith filled decisions Mary and Joseph had to make to help create their family. Their “yesses” were dramatic. We look at them with awe. Parents of today don’t usually consider that their “yesses” to the Lord are **EQUALLY** dramatic. Just as Mary and Joseph didn’t fully comprehend what the birth of Jesus would lead to, neither can parents of today fully know what’s ahead for their child. Mary and Joseph put their **TRUST** in the Lord and parents of today need to do the same. Each new born babe reminds us of God’s promise to us just as the birth of Jesus did. My thanks to all the moms and dads who strive to keep family values alive and well.

As you know by now family is one of my favorite topics. The family home should always be a safe haven. Here are some ideas I’ve gleaned from the **Columban**, December, 2014 magazine.

***Bring song into your home.*** Most children love to sing and it can serve as a soothing experience.

***Or try these Prayer Projects***

Praying together as a family is a great way to experience the presence of God in our everyday lives. While there are many ways to pray, using Scripture as the center and focus of family prayer time can be fruitful and instructive for everyone.

- ◇ ***Place a Bible in your family prayer corner.***
- ◇ ***Gather as a family and begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for guidance and understanding of God’s Word.***
- ◇ ***Read the Sunday Gospel or daily readings aloud.***
- ◇ ***Allow some time to reflect on the passage, and then share a few words about it.***
- ◇ ***End with a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of God’s living Word.***

The words I heard so often as I traveled through life are very true. “**The Family that prays together, stays together.**” That’s because where faith is nurtured **love** and **respect** abound.

**THE NAME FOR GOD**

Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children. —William Makepeace Thackeray

**Diocesan Toll-Free Number for Abuse Response:**  
**1-888-808-1235**

**Safe Environment Administrator: Rose Morgan**

# MASSSES for the WEEK



Good Shepherd Parish  
December 27, 2015-January 3, 2016

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Lk 2:41-52)

GS: 4:00 PM Nellie Mazzoni

by William & Anita Bordas

GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

SH: 11:00 AM Terry Bryan by Gloria Bryan

## Monday-Holy Innocents

(Mt 2:13-18)

SH: 9:00 AM Kenneth E. Riling by M/M Ron Betz

## Tuesday-Fifth Day Within Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

(Lk 2:22-35)

SH: 9:00 AM Pat Emrock by Wife

## Wednesday-Sixth Day Within Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

(Lk 2:36-40)

SH: 9:00 AM Stush & Joanne Wessel by Family

## Thursday-Seventh Day Within Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

(Lk 1:67-79)

SH: 9:00 AM John Fusca

by Carmen & Amy Hartford Family



## *New Year's Eve*

SH: 7:00 PM Ricky Foster by Joe Pella Family

## Friday-Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*World Day of Prayer for Peace* (Lk 2:16-21)

GS: 9:00 AM John Hudak

by Robert & Leona Cinciripini

## Saturday-SS. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen



No Morning Mass (Jn 1:19-28)

GS: 1:30 PM Wedding

Brandon Lavrinc and Lyndee Shelkey

## Epiphany of the Lord

(Mt 2:1-12)

GS: 4:00 PM Helen Martincevic

by Joe & Ruth Punturi

GS: 9:00 AM Wendy Petrocelli & Phyllis Rosen

by Paul & Abi Petrocelli

SH: 11:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

## *Rest In Peace*

*In your charity, we remember all those  
who have died, especially: Jane Schubert.*

*May the angels lead you into paradise*



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This bulletin is from  
**Good Shepherd Church**  
**1024 Maple Way**  
**Braddock PA 15104**  
**Fax: 412-271-1222**  
**Email: gshepof-**  
**fice@comcast.**  
**net**

**PRINT COVER, ADS,**  
**AND OUTSIDE TABS**  
**IN CYAN EVERY**  
**WEEK!!!**