

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

March 29 & 30, 2025



Mass Schedule:

Wednesday 9 am

Friday 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 11 am

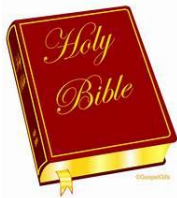
Confession 8:15 – 8:45 am

Confession 8:15 - 8:45 am

Confession 3:00 – 3:45 pm

Livestream Mass on YouTube or Facebook at Good Shepherd Catholic Church McCormick

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Glory & Praise Book Cycle C 819



First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Responsorial: Psalm 34:2-7

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15 1-3, 11-32

Welcome

We welcome all visitors and invite you to join us again for worship. Please sign our guest book and feel free to write your prayer intentions in our Community Book of Prayer. If you would like to help us with the support of our Church campus, please place an offering in the "Welcome" envelopes located on the back of the pews and drop it in the offertory basket.

Mission Statement

Good Shepherd Catholic Church is passionately committed to service, in accordance with the pastoral vision of the Diocese of Charleston, to being servants of God and good stewards of the Sacred Mysteries. We strive to be a holy and God-centered community growing in joyful righteousness and living without fear by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Spirit, we will help inspire, educate, and support our community and work for unity among the Churches.

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune,
Bishop of Charleston

Father Jacob Joseph, CMI

Email: jjoseph@charlestdiocese.org

Deacon Jeffrey DeFrehn

Email: jdefrehn@charlestdiocese.org

Office Telephone: (864) 852-4722

(Emergencies Only) (843) 329-3030

Address: P. O. Box 1468, McCormick, SC 29835

Email: gschurch@wctel.net

Website: www.goodshepherdmccormick.com

Parish Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9 am-Noon

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 29th 4 pm **Missa Pro Popula**

Lector: Linda DeShano

EM of HC: Dave Lorenzatti

Ushers: Jerry & Barb Wishall

Sunday, March 30th 11 am **Missa Pro Popula**

Lector: William Keneson

EM of HC: Gretchen Keneson

Ushers: Lee & Pat Stickdorn

Wednesday, April 2nd 9 am **+ Jim Cieri requested by Mary & Bob Niekra**

4 pm Mass followed by Feed Your Body session

Lector: Linda DeShano

EM of HC: Ginny Vose

Friday, April 4th 9 am **+ Tom Morgan and Special Intention for Kyle Morgan requested by Joan Morgan**

Saturday, Apr 5th 4 pm **+ Bob & Martha Popejoy requested by Tom & Debbie Popejoy**

Lector: Jackie Novak

EM of HC: Fabio Espinosa

Ushers: Karen Faaborg & Linda Bumbler

Sunday, Apr 6th 11 am **+ Joseph Hennenfent requested by Castle family and deceased members of the Good Shepherd Men's Club**

Lector: Lee Stickdorn

EM of HC: Marie Ring

Ushers: Ken & Mary Jane Woodburn

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 31	Communal Penance 6 pm
Apr 04	First Friday
Apr 13	Palm Sunday
Apr 14	Joyful Journey 3 pm
Apr 30	Parish Dinner
May 03	Spring Bake Sale at Grist Mill
May 03	WC Kentucky Derby Party
May 03	Shredding day McCormick
May 11	Mother's Day /First Communion
	May Crowning



Pray for our Military Members

Sophie Augustine	Sean Avery
Brianna & Stephen Balogh	Christopher R. Balogh
Sarah Balogh	Aaron T. Bird
David Bobier	Chris Brandon
Eric Brandon	Drew Chadwick
Ryan Chemelewski	Paul Cross
Nate Dreslinski	Jake Ivey
Connor Joyce	Ian Leszczynski
Cassie Newkirk	Noah Neuman
Kaylin Neuman	Stockton Obermeyer
Savanna Obermeyer	Declan Pemberton
Aspen Quam	Timothy Shively
Daniel O'Donnell	Daniel & Brandi Stricker
Jonathon Taylor	Cody Tiller
Ashley Wulforst	Thomas Wulforst



Pray for our Sick & Home Bound

Dick Balogh, Matthew Dill, Frank DeRoller, Lana Kittenbrink, Howard Milhoan, Bobby Passafaro, Paul Ruelle, John & Diane Scardace, Mary Stirtzinger, Mike Thompson, Skip Tortorello, and Bud Webster

....and those intentions written in our Community Book of Prayer. The recipient or family must clear all requests if possible.

Collection Report

Weekend of March 22 & 23, 2025

<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$2904.00	\$5,319.00	-\$2,415.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS.		
You can mail your contributions to Good Shepherd Church, P. O. Box 1468, McCormick, SC 2983		

GRANDMOTHER MINISTRY

The following items are needed for this ministry: fruit cups, canned or microwave spaghetti, mac & cheese, cereal, soup,



regular grits, peanut butter and jelly or any other non-perishable items that kids will eat or drink. Please also consider toilet paper, cleaning products, cash and gift cards from Food Lion or the Dollar stores. Please drop

off your items in the Life Center marked "Billie". Thank you for your generosity.



Catholic Appeal Update

LET'S BE TOGETHER.

Thanks to the generosity of 36 Good Shepherd parishioners, as of March 18, we have collected onetime gifts and pledges totaling \$12,690. That total represents 63% of our goal for 2025, an outstanding achievement considering we're only about a month into the campaign. If we exceed our goal, the Diocese will share half of the excess with us to spend on projects in our parish. If you haven't yet made a gift to the Appeal, I encourage you to prayerfully consider a donation to help the Diocese maintain and expand the programs it conducts to help people in need. When you decide on a gift, fill out the donor card that came from the Diocese and return it in the self-addressed envelope that came with the donor card, or place the envelope in a collection basket at Mass. Gifts are also accepted online at www.charlestdiocese.org/donate. But whether you donate online or by mail, you can be assured that the Diocese will use your gift to support its important initiatives, helping others across all of South Carolina

Dave Lorenzatti, Catholic Appeal Coordinator



In preparation for Easter, there will be **Communal Penance on Monday, March 31st at 6:00 pm. Monday night Bible Study will resume at 6:30 pm.** There will be an additional priest besides Father Jacob.

Thank You!

A big **"Thank You"** to all who were involved in the preparation, and those that attend Mass, for the visit of Bishop Fabre and Rev. Wilson, head of Aiken Deanery, last Monday. The afternoon visit was full of meetings with the Parish Council, Finance Council and parishioners to discuss our current state and outline plans for the future of Good Shepherd.



More pictures of the visit are on the Diocese of Charleston's WhatsApp. Highlights prepared by the Diocese

SACRED HEART - Abbeville

The bishop and Father Wilson began their day at Sacred Heart, which is comprised of approximately 50 individuals, some living close by and others driving many miles to reach the parish. At the morning Mass and the reception that followed, there was a large representation of parishioners. They testified that Sacred Heart is a place of deep love, acceptance and conversion. They actively invite people within the Abbeville community to join in worship and fellowship. They shared southern hospitality with the bishop by asking honest, practical questions and inviting dialogue.

Parishioners shared an inspiring story of a woman who comes to the church who is not yet Catholic but finds solace in their Marian garden. Each person is involved in the evangelizing mission locally, which prompted a deep discussion about how smaller parishes relate to a universal Church. Bishop Fabre shared importance of remembering that "the law helps us, but love is what completes us." Each person encountered on the journey to this parish exemplified the love of Christ through service, attentiveness and providing a listening ear. The median age in the church, parishioners said, is 75 years old, but no one would have known due to the zeal of this faith community!

GOOD SHEPHERD – McCormick

Bishop Fabre first met with the Finance Council. The parish is in an outstanding financial position, and parishioners are assessing the needs for the next 10 years of the growing retiree community. Accompanied by Deacon Jeff DeFrehn and Father Joseph, the bishop visited three homebound parishioners of the Good Shepherd and Sacred Heart communities. He administered the Eucharist to bring its light and joy to their lives and the lives of their families. Each person was involved in one of the many parish ministries, including but not limited to: Pastoral Council, liturgy committee, men's club, women's club, spiritual committee, Respect Life ministry, the local food pantry, national life chain, Joyful Journey prayer group, bereavement ministry, and many others! A common theme ran between both parishes — there is power in "the little ones." Though these churches are small, like mustard seeds, they have enormous potential to grow and change the state.

The daily reading (2 Kgs 5:1-15) was the story of King Naaman and the servant girl who healed him of leprosy. Bishop Fabre compared these two parishes with the faith of the young girl in the reading.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT “LAETARE SUNDAY” CYCLE C

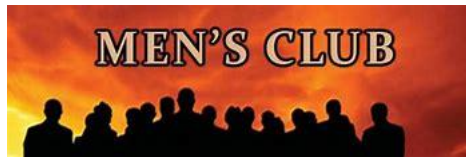
This is a great parable for Lent. It is commonly called the “parable of the prodigal son.” But it could just as well be called the “parable of the older brother” or the “parable of the forgiving father.” Each of these people in the story speaks to us in different, but equally powerful, ways. They mark out three paths to Easter life.

First, there is the prodigal, or wasteful, son who demands his inheritance, goes off to a distant country and loses it all. This unnamed “distant country” is more than a place. It is really a way of living, a condition of heart. Maybe we have known the “distant country” where we leave behind Church and Gospel to follow our own way. We are lured to a place where “sin” is made to look like fun. But sin isn’t fun for long. Sin is fun until the person is addicted to drugs. Sin is fun until drinking harms or hurts another or us. Sin is fun until infidelity destroys marriage and a family. Sin is fun until greed, arrogance or deception distort and bend our life out of shape and leave us isolated from God and others, morally ruined. This is the “distant country” we all have known in some way.

When the prodigal son comes to his senses, we have the moment of recognition: “I have sinned.” It is the moment when he no longer blamed his father for being too indulgent, when he no longer blamed society for being too immoral, when he no longer blamed his employer for being unfair, when he no longer blamed his own immaturity for being unwise, when he no longer blamed his genetic makeup or birth order for making him rebellious. “I have sinned!” That moment is the key to a different future for him and the key to the rest of his life. How often do we remain trapped in a destructive, sinful pattern of living, ready to blame anyone and anything else. People may say, “He made me do it. She pushed me. Everyone is doing it. I couldn’t help myself. You should have done more for me and said something to me.”

When a person says, “I have sinned,” it means the grace of repentance has reached in the soul, and it is a sign of moral awakening and a spiritual maturity. The path to Easter for the prodigal son and for us lies in the crucial importance of being able to say, “I have sinned.” The eldest son who always thought that he is self-righteous and “all these years have slaved for you” (the father) never experienced the loving presence of his father. He never disobeyed his father’s command and never left the house to enjoy himself with his friends but never experienced and enjoyed his father’s great love. For him, his fidelity was slavery. He is enslaved by his own sense of justice. In fact, he is the “separated one” who refuses to recognize his brother as his brother, but content for him to stay lost. His hard work has made him hard-hearted. The path to Easter for this son and for us lies in doing the responsibilities of our life we need to accept our brothers and sister and enjoy the love our father in heaven.

Finally, there is the father willing to take a repentant son back and seeking to bring reconciliation to his family. St. Paul in the second reading calls this a ministry of reconciliation, of “bridge building.” When we look at ourselves, we can probably see parts of each of the three characters in us. There is the part of the father in us which has a keen eye for those who are lost. There is the part of the younger son in us which wants to grab everything we can and try everything we shouldn’t. And there is the part of the elder brother in us which makes other people pay for our loveless fidelity. All three characters are within us competing to shape our life. We pray that the father in each of us will be fit and willing to run for mercy. This great parable through the prodigal son speaks to us about the importance of coming to say, “I have sinned.” Through the older brother, it speaks of the need for reconciliation with our brothers and sisters. Through the forgiving father, it speaks to us about the importance of bridge building. Each one of them opens a door and shows a path to Easter.



Good Shepherd Men's Club Come join us

The Men's Club was formed to be like the Knights of Columbus but with less rigid reporting requirements. All the men of the Parish are welcome to be part of the club. We have elected officers of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. They are elected from membership each year. We meet at the Parish Life Center at 5:30pm for a light meal and a business meeting on the second Wednesday of months January thru June and from September to December. Yearly dues are \$12.00 to help support our activities.

Mission

The mission of the Good Shepherd men's Club is to promote the spiritual welfare and fellowship of the members through prayer and other activities, to enhance social interaction among the entire parish family, and to perform charitable works in service to our parish and our community.

Fund Raising Activities

Pancake Breakfasts

We generally hold five breakfasts a year.

Fish Fries

We generally hold four fish fries a year.

Golf Outing

We have one outing each year. This money goes to support youth activities in the McCormick area.

Charitable Donations

1. Over the past years the Men's Club has donated money each year to local organizations in McCormick County.
2. We have supported two seminarians each year.
3. We have supported Angel Tree and other charitable needs.
4. We support the Parish each year with donations for improvements to the Church and Life Center.

If you are interested in getting a little more involved in your parish activities, or if you would like to get to know more members of your parish, please give me a call on 864-550-0034 or Tom Popejoy on 734-765-4420. Or you could just show up at the next meeting which is April 9th. .

Hope to see you soon

Pat Ouellette – President



Second collection this weekend for **Catholic Relief Fund**. Please be generous.

If you register, please contact Ginny Vose at 617 584 6900 as there is already a group signed up to attend that is carpooling to this event.


GRIEF MINISTRY WORKSHOP
Deacon Henry DeMena
Bereavement Counselor

WHAT IS GRIEF MINISTRY?
 WHAT CAN WE SAY OR DO TO
 HELP SOMEONE EXPERIENCING
 GRIEF?

Learn Practical Steps For
 Accompanying Those Who Grieve

Friday, April 11, 2025
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 St. Rafka's Church
 1215 SC-H. Greer, SC 29650

To Register:
<https://charlestondiocese.flocknote.com/signup/204344>
 \$10 Registration Includes Lunch
 Office of Family Life
 cbrown@charlestondiocese.org




HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

APRIL 17	HOLY THURSDAY	6 PM Mass, washing of feet followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 8:30 pm
APRIL 18	GOOD FRIDAY	9 am Stations of the Cross 3 pm Passion of the Lord with Veneration of the Cross
APRIL 19	HOLY SATURDAY –	9 am Blessing of the Easter Baskets
APRIL 19		8:30 PM Easter Vigil
APRIL 20	EASTER SUNDAY	11 am Sunday Mass.



Traditional Blessing of Easter Baskets

In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom.

The roots of this tradition date back to the early 12th century history of Poland and is now observed by expatriates and their descendent Poles in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. However, Eastern Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, including Czechs, Croatians, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Russians, Slovaks and Ukrainians, also participate in this holy ritual. The blessing of the food is a festive occasion. People take special pride in preparing a decorative basket with crisp linens, possibly embroidered for the occasion, both lining the basket and covering the food which symbolizes the covering of Christ's burial shroud. The foods that have a place of honor on the festive Easter table are the decorated hard-boiled eggs, which are broken and shared by all, and a lamb molded of butter or pastry, representing Christ as the "Lamb of God".

Basket Contents and Symbolism

- **Eggs** – Decorated Ukrainian pysanky or various dyed or plain white eggs, symbolizing hope, new life and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb
- **Butter** – Dairy products are included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of our salvation; reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things
- **Easter Bread** – A round loaf, sweetened yeast or rye, topped with a cross, symbolic of Jesus, the Bread of Life
- **Horseradish** – Symbolic of the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Christ; the vinegar it is mixed with symbolizing the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. This may be white or pink with grated red beets
- **Pepper** – Also symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs
- **Kielbasa/Sausage** – The links are symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead, as well as God's favor and generosity
- **Ham, Lamb or Veal** – Meats are symbolic of great joy and abundance in Christ's Resurrection
- **Smoked Bacon** – With its great fattiness, it is a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity
- **Salt** – A necessary element in our physical life; symbolic of purification, prosperity and justice; preserves us from corruption. Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth"
- **Cheese** – Usually fresh, dry curd or farmer's cheese shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation Christians should practice
- **Holy Water** – Used to bless the home, animals, fields and used in various rituals throughout the year
- **Sweets** – Fruits, candy, poppy seed and nut rolls, pastry items; promise of eternal life or good things to come

Please join the growing number of parishioners who bring their Easter Baskets to Church on Saturday, April 19th at 9 am for this traditional blessing by Father Jacob.



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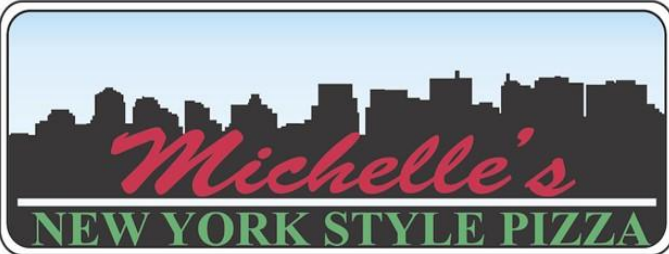
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