



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 7, 2024



Blessed are
those who
have not seen
and have

believed

JOHN 20:29

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Mission Statement

“Good Shepherd Parish, under the guidance of the true Shepherd Jesus Christ, is a Catholic faith based community seeking to proclaim and live the gospel message. Recognizing our diversity, we strive to bring together a church family, welcoming all people as we grow together in faith, hope and love.”

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SERVED BY

Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor
Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:
Goodshepherdnj.com
Or email us at
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FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, it offers us the love and mercy of God, the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles brings to light the pivotal roles of the Holy Spirit, community, and evangelization in the early Christian Church. It portrays the Holy Spirit as crucial for guiding and empowering the apostles in their apostolic mission. This day emphasizes the unity and shared life of the early believers, serving as a powerful example of communal living in faith and love. But it doesn’t mean that the early church did not have their problems, disputes and negligence over other new converts from other ethnic groups- like the Greek speaking Jews.

Moreover, the Acts inspire us with the apostles' zeal for evangelism, urging modern believers to actively share the Gospel. These themes underscore the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday as a time to reflect on God’s mercy, the strength of community, and our call to spread the good news-the Kerygma with the support of the Holy Spirit.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the second reading from the First Letter of John illuminates the profound nature of God's love and the imperative to love one another, mirroring the themes of mercy and forgiveness that this day celebrates. It beckons us to ponder our relationship with our loving and merciful God, questioning if we truly grasp and embody His love and truth in our lives. This day offers a special opportunity for reflection on living in the light of God's love, challenging us to extend mercy, kindness, and forgiveness to those around us, just as we are embraced by Divine Mercy. It underscores the essence of Divine Mercy Sunday: to deepen our connection with God, enhance our relationships through love, and live authentically in His truth and light.

The Gospel of this Sunday, focuses on the concept of belief in the unseen, inspired by John 20:19-31, where Jesus helps Thomas overcome his doubts. The Scripture reading recounts how Jesus appeared to his disciples, offered peace, and showed his wounds to Thomas, who doubted until he saw Jesus himself, now Thomas has become the patron of doubters. This story emphasizes that faith can be challenging sometimes but is rewarding and vital for understanding and experiencing God's mercy and love. Through Jesus' interaction with Thomas, we learn that doubt can lead to deeper faith and that belief without seeing is blessed.

It recounts a moment when Jesus appears to his incredible and uneducated disciples, offering peace and the Holy Spirit, emphasizing the power of forgiveness. The encounter with doubting Thomas highlights Jesus' compassion and patience, inviting all to a deeper faith. This Gospel passage underscores the essence of Divine Mercy Sunday: Jesus' mercy towards us, his call for us to believe without seeing, and his commissioning us to spread this mercy. It reminds Catholics of the profound hope and salvation found in faith in Jesus, encouraging us to live out these values in our lives, sharing God's love with others.

Good Shepherd Parish Schedule for Mass & Worship (schedules are subject to change)

Saturday (anticipated) 5:30pm
Holy Day TBD.

Sundays —9:00am, 11:00am
Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:45-5:15pm

National Holidays —9:00am
Adoration Mo-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm

Mass Intentions For the week of April 6, 2024 - April 13, 2024

- Saturday 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Massimo & Francesca Piciucco and Michael Sica
April 06
- Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Tristen Brevik
April 07 11:00am Thanksgiving for God's Tender Mercies and Favors
- Monday 7:00am Thanksgiving for the Birthday of the Grandson of Adeline Clesca
April 08
- Tuesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews
April 09
- Wednesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley
April 10
- Thursday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Rihanna Scott
April 11
- Friday 7:00am For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
April 12
- Saturday 8:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Nathan Edwards
April 13 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Rogelio Gonzaga

Kindly keep our parishioner's family, with health and other challenges, in your prayers

Let us always remember in our prayers the sick members of our Parish

Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson	Rihanna Scott
Elizabeth Cassata	Pope Francis	Frank Rocchi	Camile Laidlaw
Frederick Hamilton	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	Venus Matthews
Jean Michelin	Corizon Abuzied	Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Patrick Roylance

* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

Hospital Privacy | Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/ pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the I office at (973)375-8568

Ministries: If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please call the rectory at 975-375-8568 or fill out the Information below and place in the collection basket.

Name : _____

Telephone #: _____

Lector _____ Eucharistic Minister _____

Please contact Fr. Valentine or call the rectory if you are interested in Intensions, of a Sanctuary Lamp, Alter bread and wine or Alter Flowers



	 <p>ANNUAL APPEAL 2024</p> <p>MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY</p> 	 	<p>Announcement</p> <p>Our Church now has an Adoration Room. All are invited to visit the room, Mon-Fri 7:30AM-5:00PM.</p> <p>To gain access to the adoration room, reservations are required. Please visit the rectory to reserve your date and time.</p>
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Collection Report		March 31,, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 3,414.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,086.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual: adj. 3-24		\$68,749.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$278,062.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,652.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,848.00

Minister Assignments April 13 - April 14, 2024

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
04/13 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Nellie Bate Barbara Banks Denise Perry	Fr. Val
04/14 9:00am	Doris Omoighe	Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Helen Chief-Akude	Fr. Val
04/14 11:00am	Chinwe Duru	Janet Drew Luer Drews	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday April 7	
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	
Monday April 8	
The Annunciation of the Lord	
Tuesday April 9	
Wednesday April 10	
Thursday April 11	
Saint Stanislaus	
Friday April 12	
Saturday April 13	
Saint Martin 1	

Good Shepherd Parish Information

RECTORY HOURS: Monday Thru Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Parish Registration Forms can be found at the back of the church or call the rectory at (973) 375-8568

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 4:45-5:15 pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM In order to have your child baptized at Good Shepherd, the parents must be registered and active members of our parish. Godparents or sponsors must meet qualifications as to have received both sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass regularly and been a registered parishioner at a Catholic Church For more information please call the Rectory at (973) 375-8568

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Couples who are planning a wedding should call the parish office to meet the priest, to choose the date of the wedding and before any other arrangements are made call (973)375-8568

PASTORAL OF THE SICK Notify a priest of all who are hospitalized, home-bound, or Emergencies call (973)375-8568

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, RCIA. Adults interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church and Catholics in need of Sacraments, Confirmation or Eucharist; inquire at the Rectory. To register please call the rectory at(973-375-8568

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sunday of October-April from 10:00-11:00 am in the Church building. For more information please call the Rectory at (973-375-8568

BENEDICT XVI
REGINA CAELI

*Courtyard of the Papal Residence, Castel Gandolfo
Second Sunday of Easter, 19 April 2009*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To you present here and to all those who have joined us by means of radio and television, I warmly renew my fervent good wishes for Easter on this Sunday that concludes the Easter Octave. In the atmosphere of joy that stems from faith in the Risen Christ, I would like to express a most cordial "thank you" to all those and they are truly numerous who have wished to show me a sign of affection and spiritual closeness in these days, both for the Easter festivities and for my birthday 16 April as well as for the fourth anniversary of my election to the Chair of Peter, which is actually today. I thank the Lord for the harmony of so much affection. As I have had the opportunity to say recently, I never feel alone. Especially in this special week which for the liturgy constitutes a single day I have experienced the communion that surrounds and supports me: a spiritual solidarity, nourished essentially by prayer, which manifests itself in thousands of ways. Starting with my collaborators in the Roman Curia, to the geographically most remote parishes, we Catholics form and must feel we are one family, enlivened by the same sentiments as those of the first Christian community, of which the text of the Acts of the Apostles that is read this Sunday says: "The company of believers were of one heart and one mind" (Acts 4: 32).

The true center of the communion of the first Christians was fundamentally the Risen Christ. Indeed, the Gospel recounts that at the moment of the Passion, when the divine Teacher was arrested and condemned to death, the disciples dispersed. Only Mary and the women, with the Apostle John, stayed together and followed him to Calvary. Risen, Jesus gave his disciples a new unity, stronger than before, invincible because it was founded not on human resources but on divine mercy, which made them all feel loved and forgiven by him. It is therefore God's merciful love that firmly unites the Church, today as in the past, and makes humanity a single family; divine love which through the Crucified and Risen Jesus forgives us our sins and renews us from within. Inspired by this deep conviction, my beloved Predecessor, John Paul II, desired to call this Sunday, the second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, and indicated to all the Risen Christ as the source of trust and hope, accepting the spiritual message transmitted by the Lord to St Faustina Kowalska, summed up in the invocation "Jesus, I trust in you!".

Just as it was for the first community, it is Mary who accompanies us in our everyday life. We call upon her as "Queen of Heaven", knowing that her regal character is like that of her Son: all love and merciful love. I ask you to entrust to her anew my service to the Church, while we trusting say to her: *Mater misericordiae, ora pro nobis*.

After the Angelus : I now address a cordial greeting and fervent good wishes to the brothers and sisters of the Eastern Churches who, following the Julian Calendar, are celebrating Holy Easter today. May the Risen Lord renew the light of the faith in all and grant an abundance of joy and peace.

The Conference organized by the United Nations, the Review Conference of *the Durban Declaration of 2001 Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* will begin tomorrow in Geneva. This is an important initiative because, despite the lessons of history, these deplorable phenomena are still being reported today. The *Durban Declaration* recognizes that: "All peoples and individuals constitute one human family, rich in diversity. They have contributed to the progress of civilizations and cultures that form the common heritage of humanity... [the] promotion of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity can produce more inclusive societies". Based on these affirmations, firm and concrete action is required at a national and international level, to prevent and eliminate every form of discrimination and intolerance. Above all, an extensive educational effort is needed, which exalts the dignity of the person and safeguards his fundamental rights. The Church, for her part, reaffirms that only the acknowledgement of human dignity created in the image and likeness of God, can constitute a reliable reference point for such a task. From this common origin, in fact, stems a common destiny of humanity that should inspire in one and all a strong sense of solidarity and responsibility. I express my sincere wishes that the Delegates present at the Geneva Conference will work together, in a spirit of dialogue and mutual acceptance, to put an end to every form of racism, discrimination and intolerance, thereby marking a fundamental step toward the affirmation of the universal value of human dignity and rights, in a horizon of respect and justice for every person and nation.

I am happy to greet all the English-speaking visitors present for today's *Regina Caeli* prayer, including the group from Dulwich Preparatory School, Cranbrook in Kent. As we rejoice in the new life that the Risen Christ has won for us, let us renew our resolve to be faithful to our baptismal promises by rejecting Satan and living according to the example of the Lord. In our prayer we commend our perseverance to the intercession of Mary, Queen of Heaven. Upon all of you I invoke God's abundant blessings of peace and joy!