



The Feast of The Holy Family
December 31, 2023



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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Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com



SERVED BY

Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor
Ed Stolarz Director of Music Ministry
Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:
Goodshepherdnj.com
Or email us at
gsirvington@comcast.net

REFLECTION ON SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY DEC. 31, 2023.

“God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son...” The Holy Family we celebrate today is the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God gives us a Holy Family that is human in its imperfection. God humbled himself and took our human nature and came to belong to and to live in a human family. The family we venerate today is not one of wealthy or privileged, is a family without stress, no, but a family that from the beginning the child was born, faced a lot of stress. The family is beset by problems: a crisis pregnancy, a traumatic childbirth, there was no room in the inn, he was driven out from his home town Nazareth, driven out from his beloved city Jerusalem, driven from garbage to dumpster, to resettle in an unfamiliar country and town and lastly, he was condemned and made to carry a cross to his place of execution. And these problems began immediately Jesus was born. His doctors and midwives for his delivery were the animals watching. Yet this family is the spiritual role model for all families, because the thing they get right is love.

The story of the Holy Family inspires us to dwell in the homes we create for our own holy families. Like the Holy Family, we surely face a lot of problems and challenges, but the way we love is how our children learn to love and trust in the holiness of God’s family. When we honor each other and treat each other with respect, our branch of the family tree grows healthy and strong. We show how to listen to God’s tender call. As St. Paul advice to all of us God’s children: “put on... compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” and practice forgiveness and gratitude. These are wise and worthy goals for parents and children. For there is no better recipe in raising a family than what St. Paul said “over all these, put on love.” Love is the lubricant that helps a family to grow and be strong. As we are about to enter into another year any moment from now, May God bless and protect you and may His face shine on you and bless you with peace. Amen. HAPPY NEW YEAR in advance.

Learn more at formed.org



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

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 December 30 2023—January 6, 2024

Saturday Dec 30	5:30pm	For God's Guidance and Protection of Curtis Richards
Sunday Dec 31	9:00am	Birthday Memorial for Flvie Louis Jacques
	11:00am	Thanksgiving for God's Tender Mercies and Favors
	9:00pm	For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
Monday Jan 01	9:00am	For God's Protection and Guidance of Venus Matthews
Tuesday Jan 02	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Jacinta Kelechi Ugwuanya
Wednesday Jan 03	7:00am	God's Guidance and Protection of Omer Lu-na
Thursday Jan 04	7:00am	God's Guidance and Protection of Rudy and Lucy Suarez
Friday	7:00am	God's Guidance and Protection of Rennel and Rachel Delara
Saturday Jan 06	8:30am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
	5:30pm	In Memory of Evanguina C. Paran +

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

Kingsley Oba	Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson	Leon Davis
Elizabeth Cassata	Pope Francis	Frank Rocchi	Camile Laidlaw	Rhianna Scott
Frederick Hamilton	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	Venus Matthews	
Tom O and Janice C	Jean Michelin	Corizon Abuzied	Bob and Barbara Nezlck	

* 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

Announcement
Our Church now has an Adoration Room. All are invited to visit the room, Mon-Fri 7:30AM-5:00PM.
To gain access to the adoration room, reservations are required. Please visit the rectory to reserve your date and time.

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



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 _____

REPORT ABUSE
 Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints, and encourages anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct by the clergy, religious and lay staff to tell us immediately, so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to sexual abuse victims.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation may do so by calling the Child and Youth Protection. 201-407-3256, Fax: 973-497-4001. Or In person, 171 Clifton Avenue. Newark, NJ 07104.

Collection Report		December 24, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ NO DATA
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ AVAILABLE
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$51,560.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$295,251.00

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Dec 31
THE HOLY FAMILY 9:00AM MASS, 11:00AM MASS, 9:00PM MASS
Monday Jan 01
9:00AM MASS ONLY
Tuesday Jan 02
Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Wednesday Jan 03
Thursday Jan 04
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Friday Jan 05
Saint John Neumann
Saturday Jan 06
Saint Andre Bessette

Rolling 4 Week Averages	
Average Collection:	\$
Average Surplus (Deficit)	\$

Minister Assignments January 6 - 7

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
01/06 5:30pm	Doris Omighe	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
01/07 9:00am	Marylyn Amah	Mina Yago Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu- Obmezie	Fr. Val
01/07 11:00am	TBD		Fr. Val

Good Shepherd Parish Information

RECTORY HOURS: Monday / Tuesday/Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM; Tuesday 1:00PM-4:00PM

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

THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY- THE MODEL OF FAMILY LIFE.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths...First, we learn from its silence...The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers...Second, we learn about family life...May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

~Pope Paul VI, Address from Nazareth

Today we shift our gaze and attention from the grotto of Bethlehem where our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace was born on Holy Night to the humble house of Nazareth, to contemplate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose feast we celebrate in the festive, family atmosphere of Christmas. It is a holy family but it is at the same time a harassed family, a family that experienced hardship and poverty. And this poverty was seen when the baby Jesus was born. There was no room in an inn. He was born among the animals, in a stable, his birth bed was where the animals fed, and no midwife or doctor was there for his birth or delivery except the animals. He had no security to guide him as a King, but the animals were his guards. The harassments began immediately the child Jesus was born. He was driven out of his home town Nazareth, made to go into exile to Egypt because Herod was looking for his life of the child to kill him, he had no where to lay his head, driven from garbage to dumpster and made to be a refuge in our world of violence and indifference.

In his homily in 1964 as found in the Catechism, no. 533. Pope St. Paul VI said "The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus- the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us... A lesson of family life. May Nazareth teach us what family is, its communion of love, its austere and simply beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character..."

The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society. The time he spent in Nazareth, the greater part of his life, continues to be shrouded in deep silence. Very little information about it has been passed on to us by the Evangelists. However, if we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus' life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen. Today's liturgy offers us a providential opportunity to do so.

For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is *an authentic school of the Gospel*. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an *intimate community of life and love*; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small "*domestic church*" that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline and community asceticism and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.

It is amazing that God chose to enter our fallen human condition by becoming Incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was born of her, raised by her and Saint Joseph, acquired human knowledge through their teaching, worked with His hands, experienced the fullness of human society, and did so within the context of an earthly family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph made up a sacred family, the Holy Family. Today's feast continues our Christmas Day celebration. This feast falls within the octave of Christmas that culminates January 1, with the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

As you ponder their inner family dynamics, relationships, and charity, use them as a model of how best to relate to your own family. Some families more fully imitate those sacred virtues; others fall gravely short. Look into your own heart and ask the Holy Family to teach you how to show greater love to those in your family. Though you will never arrive at perfection, you can receive inspiration from their lives, leading to greater growth and unity, making your own family a greater source of strength for your Christian living.