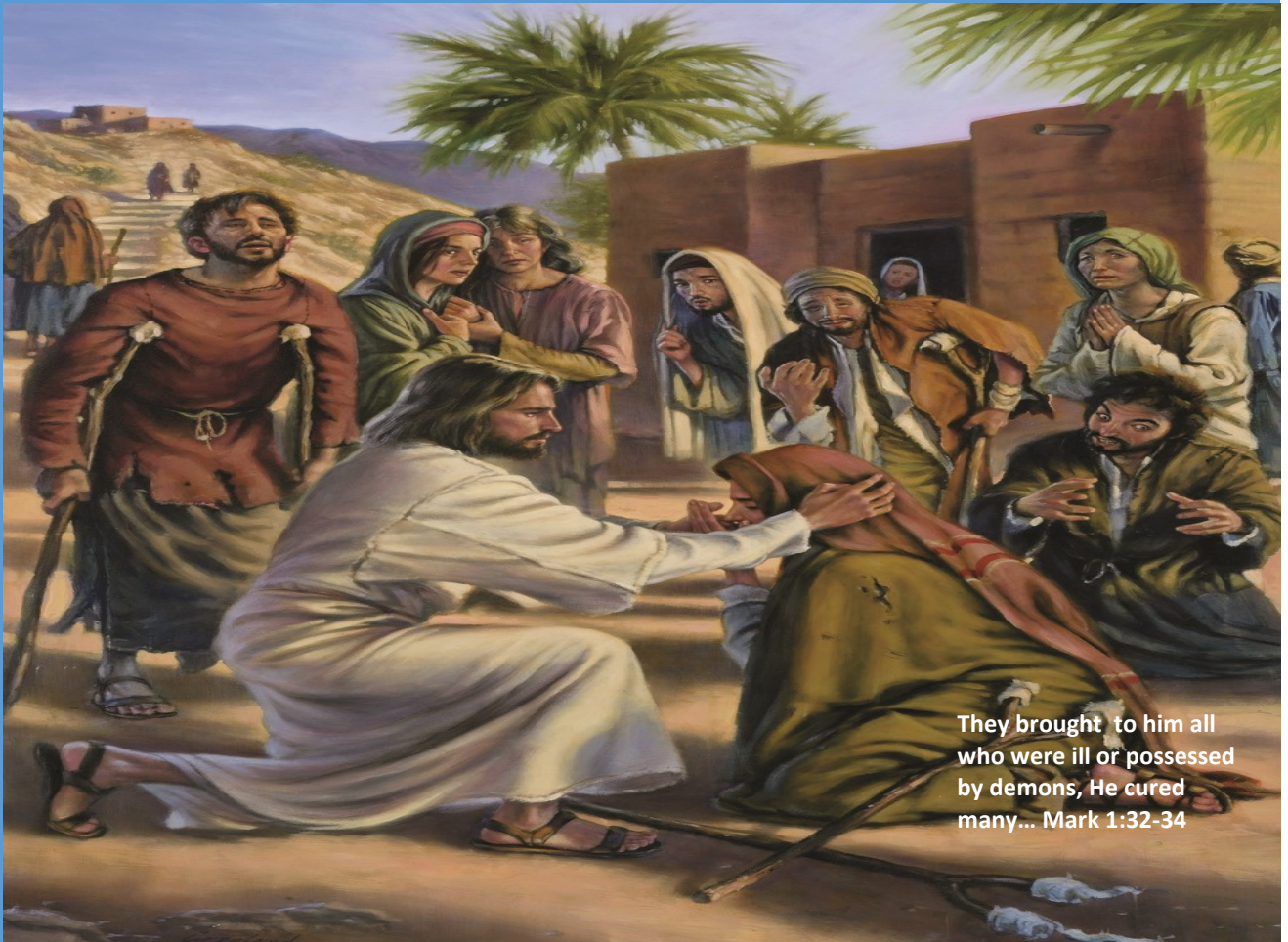




**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**



They brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons, He cured many... Mark 1:32-34

**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.”

**954 Stuyvesant Ave Irvington NJ 07111 Phone: (973) 375-8568**

**Fax (973) 375-7040 Email [gsirvington@comcast.net](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.goodshepherdnj.com](http://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

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in O.T. Year B. Feb.4<sup>th</sup> 2024. From Pastor's desk.**

The readings of this Sunday talk about human suffering. They show us that pains, sickness and suffering are part or integral part of human condition. They invite us to put our sickness and suffering into the hands of God so that He might heal and offer us solace.

The first reading describes the cry of Job in the middle of his suffering. It shows how the acuity of suffering has brought him to a desperate situation and hopelessness of life. What this text is trying to tell us is the truth that human suffering reveals the fragility of the human condition and its precarious foundation.

It also shows us the vulnerability of human condition. There is too the idea that suffering, pain and sickness disclose the hidden face of human existence that happiness, joy and pleasure often hide from us.

This text allows us to understand what is at stake in today's Gospel as Jesus cures the mother-in-law of Simon Peter who was lying sick with fever.

This was the first healing in the Gospel and after the healing, she became a companion. After that, the Gospel tells us that many healings were performed by Jesus, people brought him the sick with various disease and those possessed by demons and after the healings and cures, Jesus went to a deserted place to pray, telling us the importance of prayer in our lives.



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3. Enter your name and email
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**Good Shepherd Parish Schedule for Mass & Worship (schedules are subject to**

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 February 3– February 10, 2024**

Saturday 5:30pm The Repose of the Soul of Kory Chapman +  
Feb 3

Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Tristen Brevik +  
Feb 4 11:00am For the People of Good Shepherd Parish

Monday 9:00am For God’s Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley  
Feb 5

Tuesday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek +  
Feb 6

Wednesday 7:00am For God’s Guidance and Protection of Denise Younker  
Feb 7

Thursday 7:00am For God’s Guidance and Protection of Paul Kocum  
Feb 8

Friday 7:00am For God’s Guidance and Protection of Debbie Watson  
Feb 9

Saturday 8:30am For God’s Guidance and Protection of Rihanna Scott  
Feb 10 5:30pm For the Repose of the Souls of Elena and Domingo Bermudez +

*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

Denise Younker	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		

\* 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		January 28, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,190.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,310.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$53,750.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$293,061.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ not available
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,348.00

**Minister Assignments February 10– February 11, 2024**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
2/10 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
2/11 9:00am	Paulette Anderson -Spence	Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu- Obmezie Alexandra Dunac	Fr. Val
2/11 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Jerome Hule Luer Drews Janet Drews	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Feb 04	
Monday Feb 05	Saint Agatha
Tuesday Feb 06	Saint Paul Miki and Companions
Wednesday Feb07	
Thursday Feb 08	Saint Jerome Emiliani and Saint Josephine Bakhita
Friday Feb 09	
Saturday Feb 10	Saint Scholastica

**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

## Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream'

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. And so, we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds. But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.

We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our Northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.