



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 14, 2024



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

2nd Sunday in Ord. Time B From the Pastor's desk Jan.14, 2024

Today's readings are all about vocation. The thought is that God calls particular people from among their fellows and families to do something special task in His plan of salvation. In our first reading the young altar-boy Samuel is awoken by the call by God, to serve the Lord in a new way as prophet, priest and judge (1 Sam 3:3-10, 19).

It is inspiring. But the risk of hearing stories like that of Samuel, is that we think vocation is some voice telling us what to do with our lives, if only we strain our ears hard enough to hear it; some puzzle we can solve, if only we engage in a sufficiently convoluted discernment process of spiritual somersaults. Most people, in fact, discover what they are made for in a less dramatic way, by thinking through for themselves what they are best at, what makes them happy, how best they might serve, while always being open to a wisdom higher than their own. Of course, the initiative in vocation lies with God, who graces our minds with insights and prompts our hearts with desires beyond our own.

We are called to hold our faith strong. We have seen what happened last years between Russia and Ukraine or the Hama- Palestinians and Israel. We have to be careful and prayerful this year. How things are going now, political tension and presidential election, we have to watchful, but in this time or an age of militant secularism and Islamist terrorism, not just in places like Syria, Mali, Columbia and Nigeria but "closer to home" with home grown terrorists, we Christians must take real risks in holding out the hand of friendship to others. And we must be true to our Gospel that offers a different wisdom to "greed is good and control is contentment", even if fidelity to that Gospel costs us deeply.

As Christian we have to strong in our faith and vocations. Faith does not promise us freedom from tribulation, but courage and grace to face the trials yet to come. And in this respect, it is true to say that every Christian has a vocation, not just those joined to a spouse in marriage or a Church in priesthood or religious life. By faith every Christian is called out of the world that honors gold and the sword, consumerism and terrorism, over life and love and ideals. By Baptism every Christian is given a mission to be a temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 6:13-20) and to live the adventure of the Gospel wherever it leads, building up the Church's holiness and contributing to humanity's quest for happiness. We call this vocation "the priesthood of all the faithful" (cf 1Pet 2:9) and we each express it in different ways – though sadly not always as well as we might.

In this New Year of grace 2015, as our New Year's resolutions inevitably fall by the wayside, perhaps we might try to hold onto this one holy resolve: to live my Christian vocation a little better and say to God speak Lord your servant is listening.

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 January 13-January 20, 2024

Saturday Jan 13	5:30pm	For God's Protection and Guidance of Rihanna Scott
Sunday Jan 14	9:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Edie Montplease +
	11:00am	45th Wedding Mass of Rogelio & Veronica Gonzaga
Monday Jan 15	8:30am	For God's Protection and Guidance of Venus Matthews
Tuesday Jan 16	7:00am	For The Repose of the Soul of Stanley Magloire +
Wednesday Jan 17	7:00am	For the Repose of The Soul of Helene Brazela +
Thursday Jan 18	7:00am	For God's Protection and Guidance of Rihanna Scott
Friday Jan 19	7:00am	For God's Protection and Guidance of Elizabeth Cassata
Saturday Jan 20	8:30am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek +
	5:30pm	In Memory of Santiago, Pedro & Agapito Cerrillo +

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	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 7, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,488.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 5,012.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$56,572.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$290,239.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 2,708.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,792.00

Minister Assignments January 20—January 21, 2024

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
01/20 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
01/21 9:00am	Paulette Anderson -Spence	Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu- Obmezie	Fr. Val
01/21 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Uchenna Duru Denise Perry Allen Thevarajah	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Jan 14	
Monday Jan 15	
Martin Luther Day Rectory Closed	
Tuesday Jan 16	
Wednesday Jan 17	
Saint Anthony (Abbot)	
Thursday Jan 18	
Friday Jan 19	
Saturday Jan 20	
Saints Fabian and Sebastian	

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

PASTOR'S CORNER FOR 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

As we begin the Ordinary Time today, the readings of today are an invitation and a call to a particular vocation or ministry. The two disciples asked our Lord Jesus where he is staying. Instead of giving them an answer, Jesus says, "Come and you will see."

Faith functions much like this: we wish to know where we are ultimately headed and what heaven is like, but the only option is to experience it.

Jesus' response is one of action and inclusion: instead of giving the disciples a name where he lives and leaving them to determine the directions, Our Lord Jesus invites them to come along with him. Have you ever shared your encounter with Jesus with friends and family member?

What would you do in this situation, if you encountered the Messiah and could simply ask where he was going? Would you follow? Would you ask for time to pack? Would you give your job two weeks' notice?

Too often we keep these experiences to ourselves, worried what other people may think or say of us or afraid we won't say the right word.

Andrew did not hesitate to share his own experience with his brother Simon Peter. Samuel was not afraid to answer God calling him and sharing his experience with Eli who advised him on what to answer.

Andrew brings Simon to Jesus. He gives him the opportunity to meet the Lord and experience the love of God. There are many ways we can bring other people to Christ Jesus. These two simple, yet life-changing, acts undertaken by Andrew had a meaningful impact not only on Simon's life but also the life of the entire Church.

Through that invitation, Simon Peter was able to lead the apostles and to lead the young Church in the midst of trials, tribulations and persecutions. We shouldn't underestimate what marvels God can work through our openness to share God with others as Andrew did to his brother Simon and the young Samuel going to Eli to answer and to share his experience.

Even though we experience Christ and the Church in our own age and time, it's good practice to imagine what our reaction might have been if we were the disciples in Palestine. In many ways we are. Wherever you are, you are asked to invite others to the Lord for them to experience Him. Are willing to do so?