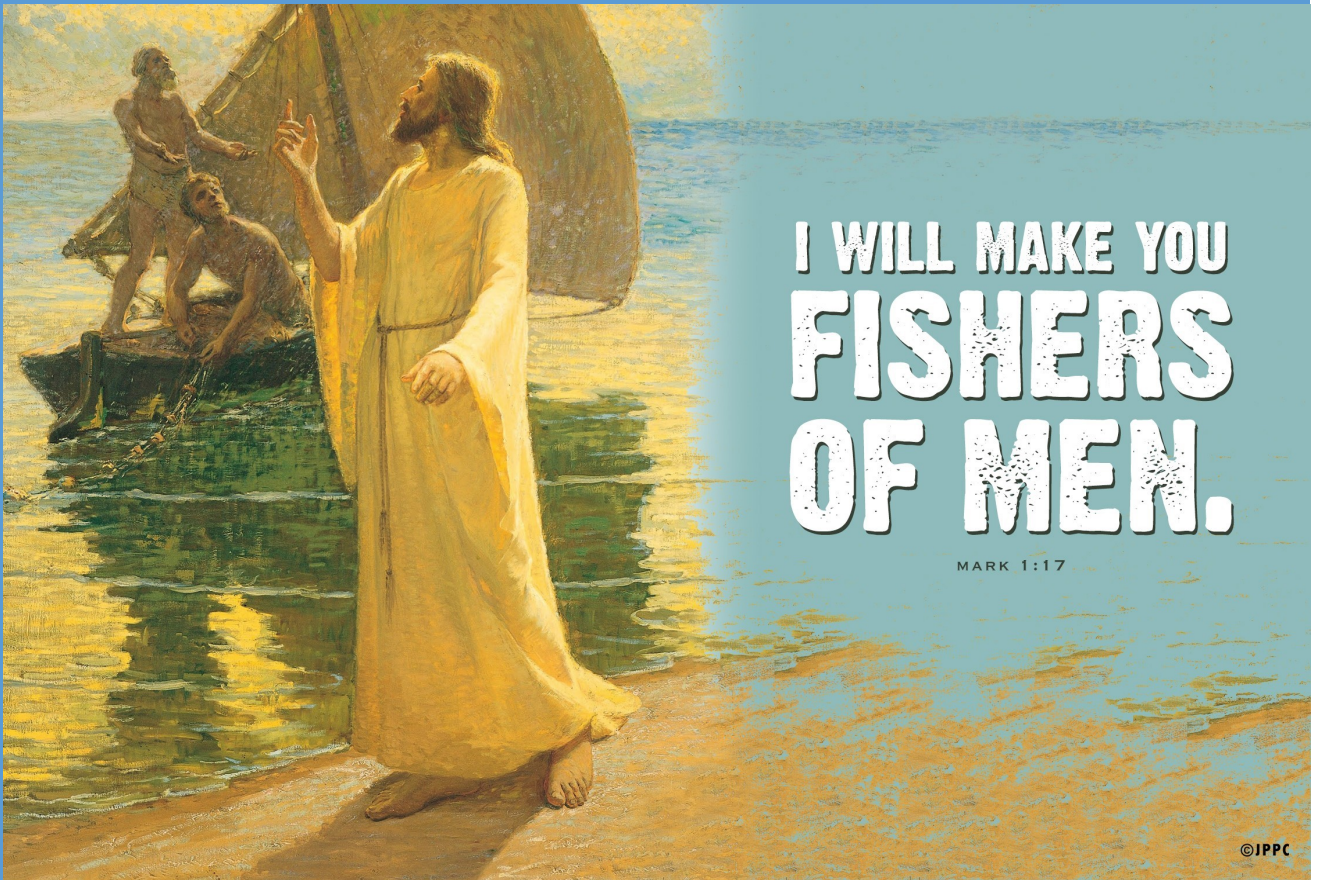




**3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 21 2024**



**I WILL MAKE YOU  
FISHERS  
OF MEN.**

MARK 1:17

©JPPC

### 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

**PASTOR’S CORNER, 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN O.T. JAN 21, 2024.**

We know that change is always hard for us. Nobody likes change but the pandemic we had and still some are experiencing it has changed the way we live. The loss of a loved one is a dramatic change, but others have been the long-lasting effects of being sick, losing a job, less income and family conflict. So much has been out of our control, but making changes like wearing masks has also protected us in many ways and limited what could have been a much worse disaster.

The gospel today is about the call to a change of life to follow Jesus without conditions. In this liturgical year we will follow the gospel of Mark. Mark always wants us to be asking two questions as we read the various stories and accounts of Jesus in his gospel. “Who is Jesus?” and “What does it mean to be his disciple?” Mark, in today’s gospel, introduces Jesus simply as from Galilee, a humble origin. Jesus teaches to uphold human dignity and respect. Even when he challenged the religious leaders of his time, he did it engaging them with the respect owed to every human being. Can we do the same when we disagree? In Jesus’ origins we see that one does not need to be rich, famous, or important in society to make a difference. We can all do something, even in small ways, to change the world for the better.

Jesus begins in Galilee where there are many different peoples, not just Jews, to show that his message is for all. Galilee was a crossroads for various nationalities and races. On the far north edge of Israel, the people there were often looked down on as kind of half breeds by those in Jerusalem. In this gospel Jesus starts his ministry here and ends his stay on earth here after the Resurrection.

This is such an important aspect of who Jesus is and what our faith is all about. It is not just a personal piety, although we need that to help ground us. It must always be an outward looking to others, especially those who are different from us. We must see the peoples of the world, no matter what color, nationality or religion, as Jesus saw them, namely with dignity and respect. This applies to those we differ from economically and politically.

The dignity of the human person means we never dehumanize another, which has happened a lot in our civic discourse lately. Who are the Galilee people today for you? Can you see them as Jesus saw them, namely as worthy to be disciples like you? Can you also be a disciple to bring others to Jesus or are going to be a stumbling block for others to experience and know Jesus? Would you answer the call as the first disciples did to Jesus without asking for what they would gain or for their social security payment after they retired?

**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 20 - January 27, 2024**

Saturday 5:30pm In Memory of Santiago, Pedro & Agapito Cerrillo +  
Jan 20

Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Marie Carmelle Fileus +  
Jan 21 11:00am For the People of Good Shepherd Parish

Monday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Rihanna Scott  
Jan 22

Tuesday 7:00am For God's Protection and Guidance of Venus Matthews  
Jan 23

Wednesday 7:00am For the Repose of The Soul of Celestina Ada Ugwuanya +  
Jan 24

Thursday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Jean P. Mede +  
Jan 25

Friday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek +  
Jan 26

Saturday 8:30am For God's Guidance and Protection of Curtis Richards  
Jan 27 5:30pm For Patrick and Isabel Rozzo

*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**



**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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Report		January 7, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ No Data
		Avaiable
Surplus (Deficit)		\$
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$51,560.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$295,251.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 3,152.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,348.00

**Minister Assignments January 27—January 28, 2024**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
01/27 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
01/28 9:00am	Longinus Onyegu	Stanislaus Egeolu-Obmezie Augustine Boa.kye Helen Chife-Akude	Fr. Val
01/28 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Denise Perry Jerome Hule Denise Yonker	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Jan 21	
Monday Jan 22	
Day of Pray for legal Abortion of Unborn Children	
Tuesday Jan 23	
Saint Vincent and Saint Marianne Cope	
Wednesday Jan 24	
Saint Francis De Sales	
Thursday Jan 25	
The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle	
Friday Jan 26	
Saints Timothy and Titus	
Saturday Jan 27	
Saint Angela Merici	

**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



## St. John Paul II's Holistic Commitment to Social Justice

“The social message of the Gospel must not be considered a theory,

but above all else a basis and a motivation for action.

—John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, §57i

Pope St. John Paul II spoke and wrote frequently about social justice, because his concern for social issues was a consistent and integral dimension of his worldview and his practice of the Catholic faith. Expressing his holistic commitment to justice, John Paul II wrote of the universal “responsibility of choosing to be *unconditionally pro-life*” (*Evangelium Vitae* [EV], §28). Within the American political framework, this phrase may seem to narrowly invoke a single contentious issue, but in the Pope’s imagination it referred to defending and promoting every vulnerable human life no matter the circumstances. The Gospel of Life “reveals *the greatness and the inestimable value of human life*” (EV, §2), and precisely this inexhaustible human dignity grounded the Holy Father’s insistence on achieving social justice.

John Paul II understood social justice as promoting the flourishing of every human person, and so he confronted the threats posed to social justice and human life by abortion, the death penalty, euthanasia, suicide and murder, racism, economic systems, the arms trade and the arms race.<sup>[1]</sup> He advocated for the poor, refugees, migrants, and indigenous peoples, encouraged dialogue on “the ecological question,” and urged Christians “to show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone and most in need.”<sup>[2]</sup> A concern for social justice also informed John Paul II’s promotion—especially through his well-known contribution to a “theology of the body”—of sacramental marriage and family life. The Pope realized that “the family has a special role to play throughout the life of its members, from birth to death” (EV, §92), a privileged opportunity to recognize their dignity, foster their flourishing, and together live in just relationship.<sup>[3]</sup> Especially because of their practical impact on family life, the Pope’s teachings on human sexuality were intimately related to his social doctrine. All these issues (and more) coalesced in the eyes of John Paul II and contributed to the grand struggle between the culture of death and the culture of life. Wherever society “encourages the ‘culture of death,’ creating and consolidating actual ‘structures of sin’ which go against life” (EV, §24), the Church strives in every situation to defend human life and so promotes social justice.

Not only did John Paul II consistently teach and promote social justice, but he also personally took interest in it and sought to answer its demands upon his own life. Interestingly, the young Karol Wojtyła rejected the idea of priesthood at first because he was “convinced that he should be an active ‘lay Christian,’ involving himself in helping to solve social problems through the Church.”<sup>[4]</sup> As a young man and priest, the experience of Nazi and then communist oppression in Poland deeply formed Wojtyła’s concern for social justice. Even before his elevation to the chair of St. Peter, during the Second Vatican Council, Wojtyła “tended strongly toward more . . . social justice positions.”<sup>[5]</sup> Throughout his life, John Paul II felt deeply in his emotional and prayer life the weight of the world’s injustices and sought to relieve them whenever possible.<sup>[6]</sup> In a particularly remarkable act of generosity, he gave a favela resident in Rio de Janeiro his gold ring.<sup>[7]</sup> John Paul II would not only inveigh against injustices, but also suffered the burden they caused in a spiritual solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed. He modeled reception and advocacy of the Church’s teachings in their holistic fullness. Now, as an intercessor and friend in the communion of saints, he continues to journey with all those seeking the realization of the Church’s vision of a just society.

St. John Paul II, pray for us!

Featured image Thomas O'Halloran, *U.S. News & World Report*; [public domain via Library of Congress](#).

[U.S. News & World Report](#); [public domain via Library of Congress](#).

<sup>[1]</sup> See EV, §§56, 59, 65–66; [Homily for January 27, 1999](#), §5; *Centesimus Annus*, §42; and *Sollicitudo*