



**EASTER SUNDAY  
MARCH 31, 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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### 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](http://Goodshepherdnj.com)  
 Or email us at  
[gsirvington@comcast.net](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)

## EASTER OR THE RESURRECTION SUNDAY PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We have gone through a tremendous week of the Holy Week. So, we who are Christians have to know how to recapture this day of Easter Sunday. It is the day the Lord has made, so we have to rejoice and be glad to use all we have, our guitar, tambourines, our organ, clapping our hands and with full mind and voices to sing that Jesus Christ is Risen, and sound the trumpet of salvation. Let the earth be sound with joy and echo the mighty songs of God's people for Christ has conquered sin and death, and the glory of God fills the earth that was once covered by darkness. Across the globe on this Easter morning, homilies are being preached in a multitude of different languages to congregations of various nationalities and backgrounds. With these congregations are to be found, sitting beside one another, men, women and children in very different personal circumstance, and in Churches. Some will have hearts full of joy; some will have lives neither especially happy nor especially burdensome; some will be struggling with worries and cares: trying to make ends meet, fighting ill health, struggling with the death of their loved ones recently, struggling with relationships, but all feeling the weight of the world upon their shoulders. And, yet, despite the diversity of place, background, and personal circumstances, there is the same humanity, the same human condition, and the same message of Easter: Death and sin have been overcome! Christ has conquered sin and death and the glory of God fills the earth. The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! This is a message of the most profound blessing.

As your pastor, I welcome all of you and parishioners of Good Shepherd and visitors to this great celebration of Easter. With joyful hearts full of praise, we with the Psalmist; This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad." (Psalm 11:24. We rejoice with the whole earth and sounding the trumpet of our salvation. Today the Risen Savior has shine upon us and as sung in the Exultet: "let this place resound with joy and echo the might song of God's people." The resurrection of our Lord Jesus is what baffles human understanding. Jesus' reference to his resurrection were consistently misunderstood by both his disciples and enemies. Many thought he was speaking about a destruction of the Temple which he was claiming he would be raise after three days, something that was easily by his accusers to claim that he was an imposter or false prophet. If you believe in the resurrection but don't fully understand it, you are not alone. It is something fascinating, fearful and at the same time incomprehensible. It is a mystery!

We have to know that our Lord Jesus' passion was a difficult moment in the lives of the disciples. Jesus uses recollection to help them realize his grace even in apparent tragedy. The hidden and resurrected Jesus continues to guide his disciples through the Scriptures, identifying for them the story of the Paschal Mystery as He did to the ignorant disciples who were on their way to Emmaus. Yet their eyes are only opened due to an encounter with him. While knowledge of our faith is important, it can never replace a relationship with Christ. The trauma of the cross was not easily overcome by Jesus' disciples. It took a new encounter with him for them to receive the Resurrection. Christ does the same for us today.

Easter. It is the most joyful day in the Christian year. Today the tomb is empty! This is the day when the story of the resurrection is told, the empty tomb and the appearance of the risen Christ (or according to Mark, the promise of that appearance). This is the day when Christians everywhere proclaim that death is not the end, Christ has conquered death and glory fills the earth and that all the powers that confront God in hostility – human egotism, self-centeredness, the self-preservation and evasions of sin, and death itself – are overcome in the loving, creative power of God. It is the day of profoundest hope – for the individual and all creation before and beyond death. During this time, some Christians will have reflected on the events of Holy Week culminating in Jesus' crucifixion in special services, or in reading, or attending Lent groups, or services on radio, TV or the internet. Others will have been at church a week before on Palm Sunday. Others may last have been in a service at Christmas – or the previous Easter. It is helpful not to hold Easter in isolation from Good Friday, and from the whole story of God's involvement with the world. The risen Christ is the crucified Jesus, is the teacher, healer and revealer of God's love, is the one promised to Israel, and born in a specific time and place, is the one whose love is from eternity, He is the Only Begotten Son of the Father. It is the most joyful day in the Christian year not in spite of the pain and loss exemplified on Good Friday, but because of those realities.

Of all days in the year, the guiding scripture for me at Easter is always the Gospel, those astonishing records of the first, bewildering experience of one or more women with the empty tomb, meeting one or more angels, that gut-wrenching, life-changing encounter with Jesus risen from the dead, and the sharing of this barely credible news with the other disciples. Other lectionary readings – prophecy, psalm, reflections by Peter and Paul – are helpful in focusing our lens on the Gospel. I endeavor to find new ways of expressing the Easter gospel, which are relatable to those who gather in person and online in the service. But fundamentally these new ways express the same central hope from that first astonishing Sunday morning. Christ is alive: the suffering and death of God's Son has confronted all that is hostile in the embraced that world in unconditional love, overcome death, continues in love for this fragile, fickle, hatred, violent world, and offers hope of new creation, this is why we have to rejoice and be glad. We are Easter people. **Happy Easter to you all..**

### 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 March 30, 2024 - April 6, 2024**

|                       |         |   |
|-----------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday<br>Mar 30    | 9:00pm  | For the Protection of Babies in the Wombs and Their Families                |
| Sunday<br>Mar 31      | 9:00am  | For the People of Good Shepherd Parish                                      |
|                       | 11:00am | For the People of Good Shepherd Parish                                      |
| Monday<br>April 01    | 7:00am  | For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley                           |
| Tuesday<br>April 02   | 7:00am  | For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews                         |
| Wednesday<br>April 03 | 7:00am  | For God's Guidance and Protection of Paul Kocum                             |
| Thursday<br>April 04  | 7:00am  | For God's Guidance and Protection of Rihanna Scott                          |
| Friday<br>April 05    | 7:00am  | For the People of Good Shepherd Parish                                      |
| Saturday<br>April 06  | 8:30am  | For God's Guidance and Protection of Curtis Richards                        |
|                       | 5:30pm  | For the Repose of the Soul of Massimo & Francesca Piciucco and Micheal Sica |

*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

|                    |                 |                        |                |               |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Patrick Roylance   | 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 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


**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








**ANNUAL APPEAL 2024**  
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY




**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.**



| Collection Report                    |  | March 24, 2024     |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Weekly Target                        |  | \$6,500.00         |
| Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy) |  | \$ Not available   |
| Surplus (Deficit)                    |  | \$                 |
| <b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>           |  |                    |
| Budget:                              |  | \$346,811.00       |
| Actual:                              |  | \$59,464.00        |
| Surplus (Deficit)                    |  | \$295,251.00       |
| Rolling 4 Week Averages              |  |                    |
| Average Collection:                  |  | \$ Incomplete data |
| Average Surplus (Deficit)            |  | \$3,977.00         |

| GSP EVENT CALENDER |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday Mar 31      | EASTER SUNDAY   |
| Monday April 01    | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION ATER MORNING MASS                   |
| Tuesday April 02   | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AFTER MORNING MASS                  |
| Wednesday April 03 | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AFTER MORNING MASS                  |
| Thursday April 04  | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AFTER MORNING MASS                  |
| Friday April 05    | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AFTER MORNING MASS<br>Saint Gertude |
| Saturday April 06  | DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AFTER MORNING MASS                  |

| Minister Assignments March 2– March 3, 2024 |              |  |          |
|---|--------------|--|----------|
| Saturday<br>Sunday                          | Lectors      | Eucharistic Ministers  | Presider |
| 04/06<br>5:30pm                             | Denise Perry | Denise Perry<br>Barbara Banks<br>Nellie Bate                   | Fr. Val  |
| 04/07<br>9:00am                             | Marylyn Amah | Alexandra Dunac<br>Mina Yago<br>Stanislaus Egeolu-<br>Obimezie | Fr. Val  |
| 04/07<br>11:00am                            | Chinwe Duru  | Jerome Hule<br>Meylyn Lopina<br>Raj Thevarajah                 | Fr. Val  |

## 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

## The Easter Resurrection Sunday Message

**Sunday April 9, 2023, Pope Francis gave his customary Urbi et Orbi Message for Easter.  
Urbi et Orbi Message of His Holiness Pope Francis Easter 2023, Sunday, 9 April 2023**

*Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is risen!*

On this day we proclaim that he, the Lord of our life, is “the resurrection and the life” of the world. (cf. *John 11:25*) Today is Easter, the Pasch, a word that means “passage,” for in Jesus the decisive passage of humanity has been made: the passage from death to life, from sin to grace, from fear to confidence, from desolation to communion. In him, the Lord of time and history, I would like to say to everyone, with heartfelt joy, Happy Easter!

May this Easter be for each of you, dear brothers and sisters, and in particular for the sick and the poor, the elderly and those experiencing moments of trial and weariness, a passage from affliction to consolation. We are not alone: Jesus, the Living One, is with us, forever. Let the Church and the world rejoice, for today our hopes no longer come up against the wall of death, for the Lord has built us a bridge to life. Yes, brothers and sisters, at Easter the destiny of the world was changed, and on this day, which also coincides with the most probable date of Christ’s resurrection, we can rejoice to celebrate, by pure grace, the most important and beautiful day of history.

“Christ is risen; he is truly risen!” In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East, the word “truly” reminds us that our hope is not an illusion, but the truth! And that, in the wake of Easter, humanity’s journey, now marked by hope, advances all the more readily. The first witnesses of the resurrection show this by their example. The Gospels speak of the haste with which, on the morning of Easter, the women “ran to tell the disciples.” (*Matthew 28:8*) Mary Magdalene then “ran and went to Simon Peter,” (*John 20:2*) while John and Peter himself then “ran together” (cf. v. 4) to the place where Jesus had been buried. Later, on the evening of Easter, after meeting the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, two disciples “set out without delay” (cf. *Luke 24:33*) and travelled several miles, uphill and in the dark, spurred on by the irrepressible joy of Easter that burned in their hearts. (cf. v. 32) The same joy that led Peter, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, after catching sight of the risen Jesus, to leave the boat with the others, to throw himself immediately into the water and to swim quickly towards him. (cf. *John 21:7*) At Easter, then, the journey quickens and becomes a race, since humanity now sees the goal of its journey, the meaning of its destiny, Jesus Christ, and is called to make haste to meet him, who is the hope of the world. May we too make haste to progress on a journey of reciprocal trust: trust among individuals, peoples and nations. May we allow ourselves to experience amazement at the joyful proclamation of Easter, at the light that illumines the darkness and the gloom in which, all too often, our world finds itself enveloped.

Let us make haste to surmount our conflicts and divisions, and to open our hearts to those in greatest need. Let us hasten to pursue paths of peace and fraternity. Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries, beginning with those that offer assistance and welcome to all fleeing from war and poverty.

At the same time, along this journey we also encounter many stumbling stones, which make it more difficult and demanding to hasten towards the Risen Lord. To him, then, let us make our prayer: Lord, help us to run to meet you! Help us to open our hearts! Help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia. Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families. Open the hearts of the entire international community to strive to end this war and all conflict and bloodshed in our world, beginning with Syria, which still awaits peace. Strengthen all those affected by the violent earthquake in Turkey and in Syria itself. Let us pray for all those who have lost family and friends, and for those left homeless. May they receive consolation from God and assistance from the family of nations. On this day, Lord, we entrust to you the city of Jerusalem, the first witness of your resurrection. May there be a resumption of dialogue, in a climate of trust and reciprocal respect, between Israelis and Palestinians, so that peace may reign in the Holy City and in the entire region. Lord, aid Lebanon, which still seeks stability and unity, so that divisions may be overcome and all citizens cooperate for the common good of the country. Be mindful of the beloved people of Tunisia, and in particular the young and those suffering from social and economic hardship, so that they may not lose hope and may work together to build a future of peace and fraternity. Turn your gaze to Haiti, which has long experienced a grave social, economic and humanitarian crisis, and support the efforts of political actors and the international community to seek a definitive solution to the many problems that afflict that sorely tried people.

Consolidate the processes of peace and reconciliation undertaken in Ethiopia and in South Sudan, and grant an end to violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sustain, Lord, the Christian communities that today celebrate Easter in particular circumstances, as in Nicaragua and Eritrea, and remember all who are prevented from freely and publicly professing their faith. Grant consolation to victims of international terrorism, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique, and Nigeria. Help Myanmar to pursue paths of peace, and enlighten the hearts of leaders, so that the deeply afflicted Rohingya may encounter justice.

Comfort refugees, deportees, political prisoners, and migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, as well as the victims of hunger, poverty, and the dire effects of the drug trade, human trafficking, and all other forms of slavery. Lord, inspire the leaders of nations to ensure that no man or woman may encounter discrimination and be violated in his or her dignity; that in full respect for human rights and democracy these social wounds may be healed; that the common good of the citizenry may be pursued always and solely; and that security and the conditions needed for dialogue and peaceful coexistence may be guaranteed.

Brothers, sisters, may we rediscover the enjoyment of the journey, quicken the heartbeat of hope, and experience a foretaste of the beauty of heaven! Today, let us summon the energy to advance in goodness towards Goodness itself, which never disappoints. If, as one of the ancient Fathers once wrote, “the greatest sin is not to believe in the power of the resurrection,” (Saint Isaac of Nineveh, *Sermones Ascetici*, I, 5) today let us believe and profess: “Christ is truly risen from the dead!” (*Sequence*) We believe in you, Lord Jesus. We believe that, with you, hope is reborn and the journey continues. May you, the Lord of life, encourage us on our journey and repeat to us, as you did to the disciples on the evening of Easter: “Peace be with you!” (*John 19:21*).