



**33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**November 16, 2025**



# Witness



## 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  
 Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:  
[Goodshepherdnj.com](http://Goodshepherdnj.com)  
 Or email us at  
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**FROM THE PASTOR'S REFLECTION 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN O.T NOV 16,'25**

As we reach the end of the liturgical year (next week will be the last Sunday in the liturgical calendar when we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, and the following Sunday will be the First Sunday in Advent) and as we conclude the Lukan account of the public ministry of Jesus, the Word of God today speaks to us about “the end”. Overwhelmed by the horrific description of events such as destruction, wars, revolutions, fights, earthquakes, plagues, famines, and fearful sights, we might forget to hear the real words of Jesus: “Do not be afraid... but the end is not so soon” (Lk 21:9).

Today’s readings speaking about endings and beginnings. The notion of ending may bring feelings of discomfort. However, these readings are not meant to frighten or depress. Instead, they are offered as spiritual aids reminding us of the mission to stay prepared for ourselves and for others. The readings of this Sunday are not uplifted, and if you think that you are going to receiving some good news today then you may have been disappointed as you listened to the readings that talks about the impending gloom and doom. The prophet Malachi predicts days blazing like an oven, a divine fire and people reduced to stubble. Luke is not much cheerier, with Jesus announcing that nations will rise against nation, familial divisions, earthquakes, famines and plagues. On an individual level, there is the promise of persecution, hatred and even death, though at the end of the gospel there is the perplexing line, ‘not a hair on your head will be destroyed.’

The name we give to the genre of reading we are presented with today is called apocalyptic. While in the popular imagination apocalypse denotes widespread destruction or disaster, its original meaning is uncovering, unveiling in order to impart wisdom, meaning and especially hope to people. And that is that job of every Christian here. We are, in the words of St Paul this morning to the Thessalonians, to get to work. As the followers of Jesus, we are to pull apart the veil, raise the curtain, shine a spotlight on every inhumanity to humanity, every act that diminishes human dignity, not only attacks with ballistic missiles and armed drones but on every slur that we make against another. Do we build up or destroy people by our words and actions.

The prophecy of Malachi should encourage us to persevere in good works until the end. Even if it appears that the evil-doers are succeeding while we are not, we must resist the temptation and continue to keep the Commandments of God. There will be a light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, some Christians practice “quid pro quo,” “give and take,” “tit for tat,” “you scratch my back, and I’ll scratch yours,” and “one hand washes the other” Christianity. Hence, they are always on the edge of giving up their Christian faith and its disciplines, especially when they don’t get what they want. The argument of this group of people is that they have kept the commandments and ordinances of God and his Church, yet God has not fulfilled his end of the bargain by granting them the benefits they have earned. Sadly, they want Christianity and religious practices to give them happiness and wealth on earth, which is not what they are meant to do.

Faith and fidelity, dear friends, do not guarantee happiness and prosperity in this world. On the other hand, faith and fidelity often lead to persecution and misunderstanding, even among members of the same family. Faith and fidelity lead to persecution, misunderstanding, and hatred for the simple reason that truth, lies, light, and darkness cannot coexist. Because of this, some kinds of disillusionment come from a wrong understanding of Christianity and its mission.

On this World Day, of the Poor, of 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the year, designated by late Pope Francis on November 20, 2016, how might the millions of refugees and displaced all over the world are treated and received by their fellow human beings in this gospel. How about the half a million, children who are living in poverty in this country? The world as it is, is not what God had in mind. The difference between bad news and good news that is gospel, depends on where you happen to be standing when you get the news.

**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 Nov 15, - Nov 22, 2025

Saturday	5:30pm	For the Youths of Good Shepherd Parish For God's Help, Protection and Pogress
Nov 15		
Sunday	9:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Tristen Brevik
Nov 16	11:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Emanuela Cheta Ugwuanya
Monday	7:00am	For Gods Guidance and Protection of Gregory Fitzgerald
Nov 17		
Tuesday	7:00am	For God's Blessing on the 95th Birthday of Jeanne Tousaint
Nov 18		
Wednesday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Judith Kuzma
Nov 19		
Thursday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Deborah Rollack
Nov 20		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Debra Chapman
Nov 21		
Saturday	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Louis Snipes
Nov 22	5:30pm	For the Repose of the Soul of Theresa Persons

*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

Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson	Rihanna Scott	Venus Matthews
Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	John Valfour	Corizon Abuzied	Margarete Victor
Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Patrick Roylance	Graylan Banks	Aloysius Patrick Osuji	Avenella Samaroo

\* 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

*We will be getting new Missal/Hymnal books on the week of November 30th First Week of Advent)*



*Please, take this opportunity to honor a loved one (living or deceased) or commemorate a special event, like the birth of a child, anniversary, etc., by sponsoring a Missal book for just \$20.00*

**Please Contact Fr. Valentine or call the office, if you are interested in requesting mass intentions, intentions of a Sanctuary Lamp, Chapel Lamp, Altar Bread, or Altar Flowers.**



# ANNUAL APPEAL <sup>2025</sup>

**The Annual Appeal is ongoing, your contributions to the appeal will help so many lives.**

**Faith Formation Corner:**

**Good Shepherd Faith Formation classes have begun:**

**There will be a children's mass every second Sunday at the 11AM Mass.**

**Next children's Mass December 14, 2025**

Collection Report		Nov 9, 2025
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,687.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,813.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 34,584.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$345,280.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,012.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,488.00

**Minister Assignments Nov 22—Nov 23, 2025**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
11/22 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Avenella Samaroo	Fr. Val
11/23 11:AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyegbule	Fr. Val
11/23 11:am	Chima Ogbo	Janet Drews Bernadine Osuji Victoria Aslouka	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday Nov 16
Monday Nov 17
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
Tuesday Nov 18
The Dedication of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Wednesday Nov 19
Thursday Nov 20
Friday Nov 21
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday Nov 22
Saint Cecilia Listening Session 10AM—12PM

**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 4:45PM - 5:15PM

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 Baptisms will be held the third Sunday of the month. 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. Children’s mass will be every second Sunday of the month, at the 11AM mass.

## *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Days of Tribulation* **From eCatholicism. Org**

As we come to the end of another liturgical year, you'd think we might get happier and more joyful readings. Instead, in response to a question put to him by Peter, James, John and Andrew, we are presented with a picture of the "final days" - before the coming of the Son of Man. In the Gospel for this weekend, Christ asks us to think about some pretty difficult things - the day when the sun will be darkened, the moon will not shed its light, stars will fall from the skies, and the Son of Man will come in power and glory. The readings seem to be all about terrible loss, nightmare, and calamity.

The fullness of God's kingdom will come. The Gospel tells us, " ... of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Although it is not pleasant for many of us to reflect on these images, it's important for us to do so. As rational beings, we have the wonderful ability to think ahead, to foresee several possible outcomes, and to prepare adequately for a number of probable situations. The unknown is our enemy. We lose control when we don't know "the day or the hour." It's hard to plan for a surprise, the unexpected. We all sense this kind of impotence when it comes to our future health or other critical circumstances. None of us walks around expecting death or violence or accidents to happen at any moment. Most folks contemplate the end times with distress and fear. The real possibility of a life spent in "everlasting horror and disgrace" looms as a real possibility when they reflect on their life lived outside the will of God. Though the terror is real, it is not of itself sufficient to either bring about change or remove the fearful debt they owe. Only God's powerful love can do that. Jesus is the priest entering into God's presence offering his own life, death, and resurrection as the Sacrifice which can remove every stain of sin, making perfect and freeing from guilt and judgment those who believe.

Jesus lived His life fully, celebrating each moment, each encounter, and each relationship with joy. He embraced human experience, drank deeply of human emotions, was nourished and comforted by human love. But He was always looking into the eyes of His Father. He was always conscious of the circle of His human existence - leading Him from God back to God. He never lost His sense of direction and purpose and in that sense He was prepared for whatever came. His love of the Father was integrated into all that He said and did and became. There was no event, no person, no circumstance that ever separated Him from His Father. Rather than concentrating on the final days - or the final coming in glory of the Son of Man - I think that Christ is more interested in the way we are conducting our lives now... in the present. I prefer thinking that our Lord is more interested that the Second Coming should be happening right now and right here.

We need look at our lives, and how open we are to His presence within them. We need to be attentive to the signs of His presence around us. We need to focus on how His words affect our day-to-day lives and our relationships with one another. The signs are there... they are around us every day.

And so our response must be that of watchfulness, not in the sense of neglecting the duties to which our Christian life calls us, but to the extent that each day must be one of attentiveness, expectation and hope. We, like Jesus, must learn to live fully to love fully, to journey trustingly always conscious of the Father's presence, always aware that He could be waiting for us around each corner, at every intersection. In that spirit, we will see the face of God in each person we meet, feel His power and goodness in the world around us, and draw from His strength to overcome every evil.

Jesus gives us a glimpse of his glorious and triumphant return. It does not matter that at times in history it appears that the forces of evil will overwhelm his people; the drama is not yet over until he returns and makes all things whole. This week's Gospel passage gives us just a hint of the final outcome. His will be a glorious victory and a triumphant return.

So when the moment comes when we do meet Him face to face and see Him reach out to lead us across the threshold of death into His house of light and life, it will not be a shock or a surprise. He will not appear as a stranger or an enemy, but as a friend and companion. Then we will be possessed by His beauty, His life, and His love, - and as our first reading says, we "shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and ... shall be like the stars forever."