



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**November 30, 2025**



**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

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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  
[gsirvington@comcast.net](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)

**PASTOR’S REFLECTION ON THR FIRST SUN. OF ADVENT. Nov 30, 2025**

We are busy and forgetful and how many times does the wife ask her husband, my dear, “don’t you remember, what day it is today?” “Well, yes” replies husband rather cautiously, “It’s, it’s 30<sup>th</sup> of November” That’s right, says the wife. And what’s the 30<sup>th</sup> of November? “Well, or yes, oh yes, of course, it’s our wedding anniversary, isn’t? That kind of conversation, I suspect, takes place in many households! And how often in the coming weeks will we hear the question “Are you ready for Christmas?” So little time and so much to do. In today’s readings, we hear the same question but in a much broader, more profound context.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season which starts off a new liturgical year. It is the time when we prepare to celebrate the astonishing truth that God became one of us. Our first reading reminded us that Jerusalem was dear to the Jews because it was, they believe, God’s own dwelling place. But never did God draw so near to us as when our Lord Jesus took our human nature and was born in Bethlehem. The idea of Advent is not that we should try and revive the emotional ‘Christmasy’ feelings of childhood days but rather that we should grow in appreciation of the starting truth of the incarnation, God’s coming to dwell among us.

However, the readings of today we have heard make it clear that we are meant to have in mind not only the first coming of the Lord Jesus but also his second coming at the end of time. Our Lord Jesus in the Gospel made it clear that we do not know day or the hour when the Son of Man will come. The only sensible thing we have to do is to be in a permanent state of readiness, to be awake and vigilant. With a touch of humor, Jesus points out that no man in his right mind would fail to make suitable preparations, if he knew that a thief or a burglar was due to arrive at his house. Today the gospel speaks of people eating and drinking, grinding meal, working in the fields. And it is precisely into the ordinaries that our Lord Jesus comes. What our Lord was saying is for us to be prepared and be awake because we don’t even know when he would come. He is not pointing to the end of time, he’s inviting us to live in the present moment, to be attentive to the ordinary ways he enters our lives.

Advent, then, highlights the truth that here and now we exist in an in-between stage- looking back to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and forward to his coming at the end of time- and so, not surprisingly, it urges us to make the most of present opportunities we have now. St. Paul promises that ‘it will be daylight soon’, his way of describing the second coming of Jesus, so now, he says, we must ‘stay awake’, like soldiers, always ready for the only context which really matters, that on which our eternal future depends. “Let your amour” he says be the Lord Jesus Christ; we ‘ve to put him on” in the sense of enveloping ourselves in his teaching, allowing his standards and his sentiments to direct our lives. As we prepare to celebrate the wonder of God coming to us and to one of us, his incarnation, let us open ourselves anew and awake to the many opportunities to welcome our Lord Jesus in our midst each and every day. And Maranatha—Come Lord Jesus

**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 29, - Dec 6, 2025

Saturday	5:30pm	For the Repose of the Soul of Elaine Hubbert
Nov 29		
Sunday	9:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Denise Perry
Nov 30	11:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis
Monday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Louis Hubbert
Dec 01		
Tuesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Colin Lewis
Dec 02		
Wednesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Evans Bruno
Dec 03		
Thursday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Marie J. Bruno
Dec 04		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Cassata
Dec 05		
Saturday	8:30am	For the Repose of the Soul of Debra Chapman
Dec 06	5:30pm	For the Birthday Remembrance of Leopaldo Bate

*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.**



**Report Financial Misconduct Confidentially**

*If you suspect financial misconduct, use **Ethics Point**, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and work-place environments. Visit [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org) for the hotline and reporting link.*

Collection Report		Nov 23, 2025
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ NO DATA
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ AVAILABLE
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ no update
Surplus (Deficit)		\$
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$

**Minister Assignments Dec 06—Dec 07, 2025**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
12/06 5:30PM	TBD	TBD	Fr. Val
12/07 9:00AM	TBD	TBD	Fr. Val
12/07 11: 00AM	TBD	TBD	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday Nov 30
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday Dec 01
Tuesday Dec 02
Wednesday Dec 03
Saint Francis Xavier
Thursday Dec 04
Saint John Damascene
Friday Dec 05
Saturday Dec 06
Saint Nicholas

**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.

**PRESENTATION OF THE BULL OF INDICTION  
OF THE GREAT JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2000  
*HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II*  
*Sunday, 29 November 1998***

1. “*Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord*” (refrain, Responsorial Psalm; Italian Lectionary).

These are the words of the Responsorial Psalm for today’s liturgy of the First Sunday of Advent, a liturgical season which from year to year renews our expectation of Christ’s coming. Advent has taken on a new, unique aspect in these years as we look forward to the third millennium. *Tertio millennio adveniente*: 1998, which is coming to an end, and 1999, now close at hand, bring us to the threshold of a new century and a new millennium.

Our celebration today also began “on the threshold”: on the threshold of the Vatican Basilica, in front of the Holy Door, with the presentation and reading of the *Bull of Indiction of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000*.

“Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord” is a refrain perfectly in tune with the Jubilee. It is, so to speak, a “*jubilee refrain*”, according to the etymology of the Latin word *iubilare*, which in itself contains a reference to joy. Let us go joyfully, then! Let us walk with joy and watchfulness, as we wait for the season that recalls God’s coming in human flesh, a time which reached its fullness when Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem. It is then that the time of waiting was fulfilled.

In Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it. As it does every year, this event will take place on the night of the Lord’s Birth. The shepherds will hasten to the stable in Bethlehem; later the Magi will arrive from the East. Both the one and the other in a certain sense symbolize the entire human family. The exhortation that rings out in today’s liturgy: “Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord” spreads to all countries, to all continents, among every people and nation. The voice of the liturgy — that is, the voice of the Church — resounds everywhere and invites everyone to the Great Jubilee.

3. For this reason the refrain “Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord” sounds so appropriate. We can meet God, because he has reached out to us. He did so as the father in the parable of the prodigal son (cf. *Lk 15:11-32*), because he is rich in mercy, *dives in misericordia*, and wants to meet us from wherever we come and wherever our journey is taking us. God comes to us whether we have sought him, ignored him and or even avoided him. He reaches out to us first, his arms open wide like a loving and merciful father. If God is moved to reach out to us, can we turn our backs on him? But we cannot go alone to meet the Father. We must join the company of all who are members of “God’s family”. To prepare for the Jubilee properly, we must be ready to accept everyone. They are all our brothers and sisters because they are all children of the same heavenly Father.

We can interpret the Church’s 2,000year history in this perspective. It is comforting to note how, in this passage from the second to the third millennium, the Church is experiencing a fresh missionary impulse. This is one of the results of the continental Synods held in recent years, including the current one for Australia and Oceania. It can also be seen in the information received by the Committee for the Great Jubilee about activities planned by the local Churches in preparation for this historic event.

4. In today’s Gospel we heard the Lord’s invitation to be watchful: “Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”. And then immediately: “Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (*Mt 24:42, 44*). The exhortation to be watchful resounds many times in the liturgy, especially in Advent, a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but also for *Christ’s definitive and glorious coming at the end of time*. It therefore has a distinctly eschatological meaning and invites the believer to spend every day and every moment in the presence of the One “who is and who was and who is come” (*Rv 1:4*), to whom the future of the world and of man belongs. This is Christian hope! Without this prospect, our existence would be reduced to living for death.

Christ is our Redeemer: *Redemptor mundi et Redemptor hominis*, Redeemer of the world and of man. He came among us to help us cross the threshold that leads to the door of life, the “holy door” which is he himself.

5. May this consoling truth always be clearly present before our eyes, as we advance on our pilgrimage towards the Great Jubilee. It is the ultimate reason for the joy which today’s liturgy urges us to have: “Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord”. By believing in the crucified and risen Christ, we also believe in the resurrection of the flesh and in eternal life. *Tertio millennio adveniente*. In this perspective the years, centuries and millenniums acquire that definitive meaning of life which the Jubilee of the Year 2000 is meant to reveal to us.