

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time— August 13, 2023

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:31



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
Or email us at
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A NOTE FROM FR. VALENTINE.

Today's first reading presents us with the Old Testament prophet Elijah likewise in a state of dependency. Three days prior to the episode we just now heard in today's first reading he was so miserable that he asking God to let him die. We find him here in this reading hiding in a cave, seeking shelter in solid rock. But just as he finds shelter in a cave along comes an earthquake and then a hurricane of a storm that smashes the rocks and cliffs of the mountains, threatening to drown him in chaos.

"Where is God in all of this?" he was asking. What is God saying to me in all of these events? Elijah, however, couldn't figure anything out until he was able to hear the voice of God in a tiny little whisper. The voice of God came to him in the most unexpected of ways. And so, it is with us. In today's gospel the disciples sit helpless as their boat is tossed about by the storm. Many times, in our lives we are overwhelmed with howling winds and merciless waves. We become overwhelmed, anxious, and afraid. It is easy to simply give up. However, while storms may be stronger than we are, they are not stronger than God. The disciples and Peter found themselves to be in similar circumstances, only this time out in an open boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee in a raging storm. "Where is God in all of this?" they wondered. Peter spoke up and said, "Lord, if it's really you over there tell me to come to you across the water." Peter, we see, had his doubts.

"Where is God in all of this?" we cry.

Confidence is the word we need to take into our hearts and souls today. Confidence. Confidence comes from a Latin word; it means, "to believe with". We cannot have confidence when we're isolated and all alone. We cannot have confidence all by ourselves. No, we can only have confidence when there's an Other near us, the Other that is God. When Peter put his trust in the Lord, the storm lost all its power. Through Jesus, Peter conquered his fears and walked peacefully while the world around him crashed and howled. The moment he lost focus, Peter's fear devoured him. When we put our trust in Jesus, he will conquer our fears. The storms of this world, and in our lives, will lose their grip and power over us.

Let us have faith in Jesus, and never take our eyes off of him. No matter what we have done or failed to do, it is never too late to cry out, as Peter did, "Lord, save me!" Let us be filled with confidence and stay in the boat with Jesus and never lose sight of Him. Amen.

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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 4:30-5:00pm

National Holidays —9:00am

Mass Intentions For the week of August 13—August 19, 2023

Saturday 5:30pm Thanksgiving for God's Tender Mercies and Favors Given
 Aug 12

Sunday 9:00am Memory of Tristen Brevik

Aug 13 11:00am H&WB of The Duru Family

Monday 7:00am H&WB of Frederick Hamilton

Aug 14

Tuesday 7:00am Anthony Ihiebgunam & Deceased Relatives

Aug 15 8:00am Repose of Souls of the Laz Igbokwe & Fidelis Udeagwu

Wednesday 7:00am H&WB Jean Michelin

Aug 16

Thursday 7:00am For the People of Good Shepherd Parish

Aug 17

Friday 7:00am H&WB Carlos Quinones

Aug 18

Saturday 8:30am Thanksgiving for Our Lady of Alter Grace

Aug 19 5:30pm In Memory of Lucila Ochang & Judy Lupo

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

Angela Freeman	Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson
Elizabeth Cassata	Emily Lugo	Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Pope Francis
Frederick Hamilton	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	Josephine DiPietro
Tom and Janice Ho	Jean Michelin	Corizon Abuzied	Venus Matthews

* 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

Please contact Fr. Valentine or call the rectory if you are interested in Intentions, of a Sanctuary Lamp, Alter bread and wine or Alter Flowers



Collection Report		August 6, 2023
Weekly Target		\$8,645.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		Data will be available in the
Surplus (Deficit)		available in the
Fiscal Year to Date		August 27th
Budget:		Bulletin
Actual:		
Surplus (Deficit)		
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		
Average Surplus (Deficit)		

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday August 13	
Monday August 14	
Tuesday Aug 15	
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Mass at 7AM and 8AM	
Wednesday Aug 16	
Thursday Aug 17	
Friday Aug 18	
Saturday Aug 19	

Minister Assignments August 19 –August 20

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
8/19 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
8/20 9:00am	Longinus Onyega	Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Helen Chife-Akude Alexandra Dunac	Fr. Val
8/20 11:00am	Chinwe Duru	Uchenna Duru Janice Camacho Denise Perry	Fr. Val

Good Shepherd Parish Information

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 4:30- 5:00 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 for at least 6 months. 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 at least one year prior to the chosen date and before they make any other arrangements 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

Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com

Email : gsirvington@comcast.net



Cardinal Tobin calls for unity, not just inclusion, in synod process

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, presented "Pope Francis: Journey of Synodality" at Sacred Heart University In Fairfield, Connecticut, April 18. His talk was part of the Bergoglio Lecture Series. (NCR Photo/John Grosso)

"Let me tell you my favorite guillotine joke," Cardinal Joseph Tobin said to the packed room at Sacred Heart University April 19, earning some muffled laughs. Tobin, archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, was at the Connecticut school to deliver its third [Bergoglio lecture](#) of the semester. "It was during the Terror and on this day, they were executing foreigners. The first man up was an Italian and he was placed in the guillotine, and the executioner pulled the rope and the blade came crashing down, but stopped two inches from the man's neck. The crowd shouted 'It's a miracle,' and he was set free," the cardinal related. "The second man was a German and the same thing happened: The blade stopped a couple of inches from his neck, it was proclaimed a miracle and he was set free. The third man was an American and as he mounted the scaffold, he looked up, and said to the executioner, 'You know, if you tighten that bolt up there, it might work.'" The joke demonstrated certain qualities of the American mind, in this case our need to fix things, that may need to be overcome if synodality is to succeed. Listening and patience, so as to ensure the Holy Spirit is taking the lead, were at the top of Tobin's list, too. He noted that the parables of the Kingdom of God always imply patience, and that people who live in agrarian societies and those who have endured great suffering are masters of patience from whom the rest of us would do well to learn. I have been [warning](#) for over a year about this precise need to analyze bracingly our American habits of mind and how they might help or hinder the synodal process. The main points of Tobin's lecture were about grounding the synodal process in a rediscovery of "two past connections to the activity of the Holy Spirit." The first was the "double miracle at Pentecost." The first miracle is well known: "People hear the Good News in their own language, that is, in what makes them, 'them,'" Tobin said. The second is "subtler" and is often overlooked and unremarked: "Somehow, the hearing and subsequent belief in the Good News does not homogenize the disciples into a sort of featureless ecclesial 'porridge,'" Cardinal Tobin explained. "Rather than eliminating cultural differences, the Spirit leads the disciples to a unity that is more profound and respectful than a minimalist notion of 'inclusion.'" Archbishop Tobin said that the ongoing diversity of the early Christian community is evident from the fact that "the first conflicts were ethnic, cultural and theological." But the unity forged at Pentecost is greater still. Those at the first Pentecost, "will discover a principle of unity that, while not denying culture, gathers them together and makes reconciliation possible ... the Holy Spirit," Tobin said.

'Rather than eliminating cultural differences, the Spirit leads the disciples to a unity that is more profound and respectful than a minimalist notion of inclusion.'

—Cardinal Joseph Tobin

Diversity alone is only part of the Pentecost event," he said. "The Word of God had already demonstrated that diversity alone was the tragic result of a construction project driven by human hubris in a place called Babel. A comprehensive reading of Acts shows an astonishing unity that the apostolic preaching creates, a unity that the community struggles mightily to preserve." I hope Cardinal Tobin will expound at greater length on what characterizes this "more profound and respectful" unity in our time and what he means by "a minimalist notion of 'inclusion.'" He is on to something very important. As far as I can tell, Catholic theologians have done very little serious work discerning the ways our Catholic intellectual tradition and the current interest in diversity, equity and inclusion do, and do not, cohere.

The second, necessary point of connection with the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church today, according to Tobin, is with "the crucial teaching of Vatican II regarding the church as the 'People of God.'" He noted that the placement of the chapters in *Lumen Gentium* was "normative" and quoted from the International Theological Commission's document on synodality: ...the sequence—the Mystery of the Church (chapter 1), the People of God (chapter 2), the Hierarchical Constitution of the Church (chapter 3)—stresses that the ecclesiastical hierarchy is at the service of the People of God in order that the Church may carry out her mission in conformity with God's plan of salvation, in the logic of the priority of the whole over its parts and of the end over the means. Synodality, then, "embodies a maturation and deepening in the reception of this understanding of the church as People of God walking together according to which 'the Pastors and the other faithful are bound to one another by mutual necessity.'" according to Tobin. The whole membership of the church is bound to each other in equal dignity in Christ by baptism, and all must surrender to the Holy Spirit as they enter the synodal process. But pastors surrender to the Spirit as pastors, and the lay faithful surrender as lay faithful. The distinct vocations of the church are united, not homogenized. Synodality, you might say, is not a leveler; it is leaven for the whole. Archbishop Joseph Tobin pointed to the oath a bishop makes before he is consecrated a bishop. The bishop vows to "discern and coordinate the gifts of the Holy Spirit not to own them or even to generate them." This discernment is at the heart of synodality and it is built on attentive and affective listening to one another so that we all may hear the Holy Spirit. "If we want a synodal church, we need to ask ourselves if we believe that the Spirit manifests freely through all persons and their life stories, even in points of view that are completely different and diverse from our own position," Tobin explained. The synodal process clearly will rise and fall on whether or not we learn to listen to one another and whether the church makes accompaniment the hallmark of its pastoral theology. "It flies in the face of what our society is saying at this time, which is that question of polarization, of keeping people at a distance if they are not in agreement with us, not like us in certain social, cultural ways," Tobin said. "Accompanying is different; it says you go to each person and treat them in their individuality, you walk with them in grace, you embrace them." Cardinal Tobin also mentioned the need to move beyond the ad intra quarrels that dominated so many initial reports from the synodal process. He cited, approvingly, an [essay](#) at *America* magazine by Fr. Lou Cameli of the Archdiocese of Chicago who mentioned the focus on ad intra issues as one of the challenges to synodality, along with the perfunctory role of prayer in the process, and the tendency for people to say things *to* the church rather than speaking *from* the church. Tobin pointed to the success of *The Encuentro* process as pointing a way to overcome these hurdles. He finished by quoting from the Holy Father's [talk](#) last week to the General Assembly of the Union of Major Superiors of Italy: Sometimes I get a little scared when we talk about synodal spirit and immediately think, "Now they have to change this, this, this..." and we come back closed in new ways. No, walking in the synodal spirit is listening, praying and walking. Then, the Lord will tell us the things we need to do. I have seen in some proposals, "Now we have to make this decision, this, this...." No, this is not synodal walk. This is a "parliament." Let's not forget that the synodal walk is done by the Holy Spirit: He is the head of the synodal path, He is the protagonist.

And women, in this dynamic, go forward with the pastors, even when many times you do not feel valued and sometimes understood, you are available to listen, to meet, to dialogue, to make plans together. Open yourselves, [always] with the grace of the Holy Spirit. What Tobin is doing, what the pope is doing, is precisely the "formation in synodality" that was called for in the recent North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod [about which I wrote April 17](#). We need ecclesial leaders to address these topics publicly to get the entire church thinking through the difficulties, appraising the challenges, discerning the opportunities, all of it rooted, as Tobin's talk was, in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and trust in the Holy Spirit.