



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 15, 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

Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:

Goodshepherdnj.com

Or email us at

gsirvington@comcast.net

**Pastor’s Reflection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Dec 15,2024.**

Today we are celebrating the third Sunday of Advent, also called ‘Gaudete Sunday,’ or Rejoicing Sunday. It’s called ‘Gaudete Sunday’ because it takes its name from the first word of the entrance antiphon meaning rejoice. So, we’re supposed to rejoice today, to be happy, but why? Advent as a whole is about expecting and preparing, hoping and working. That expectation and preparation; however, has a twofold character: expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, his birth; but also, expectation and preparation for the second coming of Christ at the end of the world, the end of time.

Thus, during Advent we’re not just looking towards Christmas, but we’re also looking beyond that to Christ’s second coming at the end of time. And whilst the best way to try and prepare ourselves during Advent for these events is to pray earnestly that Christ will indeed come, to pray that we will repent and change our way of seeing. Nevertheless on Gaudete Sunday we take a step back from that earnest atmosphere, so we can allow ourselves to experience that joy, gladness and rejoicing which Christ’s coming holds out to us. Our preparing has a joyful quality because of what is to come but also because the joy of that coming transforms our daily life and events. But what is it that we are rejoicing about and why should it make us happy?

Thus, there are three causes of rejoicing here that can also transform our lives. The first is the stirring of desire for a holy life from such unlikely characters as tax collectors, soldiers, and, well, ordinary people. The second is their humble, courageous, and fearsome question: “What shall we do?” The so longed for the forgiveness of their sins that wealth, power, and position or authority faded away before the promise of a clean heart. And John’s response- his good news – was within their reach: act fairly and honestly and do not cheat. But the greatest cause for rejoicing is the glimpse John gave of the Lord and Savior coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire: which is a baptism of holiness beyond our comprehension or imagining, and beyond his own grace. This calls for rejoicing.

But today’s gospel uses the contrast between Our Lord and John the Baptist to help us understand what is going on. To begin with, they both had a long history together, going right back to their childhood. Their relationship, therefore, was neither casual nor insignificant; it was deep rooted. So, when Mary discovered her friend Elizabeth was pregnant, she came to visit Elizabeth to offer her support. That decision to offer support, however, led to the occasion of an even more important event, the first meeting of Our Lord and John the Baptist. The God of Israel left the temple to dwell in Mary’s womb.

Therefore, let’s immerse ourselves in the joy that this gives rise to and let this be our springboard to ever better discipleship and together let’s work to build the kingdom that is to come and pray for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 Dec 14- Dec 21, 2024**

Saturday Dec 14	5:30pm	For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
Sunday Dec 15	9:00am 11:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Joseph M. Akude For the Health & Wellbeing of Oguh, Ngobili, Agwunobi Families and Relatives
Monday Dec 16	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Debra Chapman
Tuesday Dec17	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews
Wednesday Dec 18	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
Thursday Dec19	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Avenella Samaroo
Friday Dec 20	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Oscar DeCastro
Saturday Dec21	8:30am 5:30pm	For God's Guidance and Protection on Sandi Mosely In Memory of leopoldo 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	Pope Francis
Camile Laidlaw	Venus Matthews	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	John Valfour
Jean Michelin		Corizon Abuzied	Margarete & Rene Victor	
Raymundo Canares	Rene Victor	Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Patrick Roylance	

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

**ANNUAL<sup>2024</sup> APPEAL**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR GIFT TO HELP OUR PARISH REACH OUR GOAL**

**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 Sanctuary Lamp.**


**Faith Formation Corner:**

Their will be a Children's Mass every 2nd Sunday of the month at the 11:00AM Mass

Our next Children's Mass will be Jan 12th at 11:00AM.

**Classes have begun, please register your child.**

Collection Report		Dec 8, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,613.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,887.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$416,833.00
Actual:		\$ 46,375.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$370,458.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,279.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,221.00

**Minister Assignments Dec 21 - Dec 22 2024**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
12/21 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Nellie Bate Barbara Banks Graylin Banks	Fr. Val
12/22 9AM	Paulette Ander-on Spence	Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Augustine Boakye	Fr. Val
12/22 11:00am	Chima Ogbo	Pedro Bubano Janet Drews Luer Drews	Fr. Val

## GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Dec 15
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday Dec 16
Tuesday Dec 17
Wednesday Dec 18
Thursday Dec 19
Friday Dec 20
Saturday Dec 21
11:00 AM THE PARISH PENANCE AND CONFESSION SAINT PETER CANISUS

## 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 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.



**ANGELUS**  
Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 12 December 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel in today's Liturgy, the Third Sunday of Advent, presents us with various groups of people – the **crowd, the publicans and soldiers** – who, touched by John the Baptist's preaching, ask him: "What then should we do?" (Lk 3:10). ***What should we do?*** This is the question they asked. Let's reflect a little on this question.

It does not stem from a sense of duty. Rather, the heart is touched by the Lord. **It is the enthusiasm for His coming that leads them to ask: *what should we do?*** Then John says: ***"The Lord is near. What should we do?"*** Let's give an example: let's think of a dear one who is coming to visit us. We joyfully and even impatiently await the person. To welcome the person, we will do what needs to be done: we will clean the house, we will prepare the best dinner possible, perhaps a gift... In short, there are things we will do. It is the same with the Lord. **The joy of His coming makes us ask: *what should we do?* But God elevates this question to a higher level: what should I do with my life? What am I called to? What will I become?**

By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: **life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left up to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us – let's not forget this – has a mission to accomplish.** So, let's not be afraid to ask the Lord: what should I do? Let us ask him this question repeatedly. It also recurs in the Bible: in the Acts of the Apostles, several people, hearing Peter who proclaimed Jesus' resurrection, "were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' " (2:37). **Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to this? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society? The Advent Season is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?**

After the question, "what should we do?", the Gospel lists John the Baptist's responses that are *different for each group*. In fact, John recommends that those who have two tunics should share with those who have none; to the publicans who collect taxes, he says: ***"Collect no more than the amount prescribed"*** (Lk 3:13); to the soldiers: ***"Do not mistreat or extort money from anyone"*** (cf. v. 14). He directs a specific word to each person that responds to their actual situation in life. **This offers us a precious teaching: *faith is incarnated in concrete life. It is not an abstract theory. Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory – no! Faith touches us personally and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith. Is my faith abstract, something abstract or concrete? Does it lead me toward serving others, helping out?***

And so, in conclusion, **let us ask ourselves: what should we do concretely in these days as we draw near to Christmas? How can I do my part? Let's choose something concrete, even if it is small, that is adapted to our situation in life, and let's continue doing it to prepare us for this Christmas.** For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person, someone in need. Even still: maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after so much time has elapsed, it's time to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, let's find something concrete and do it! May the Madonna help us, in whose womb God took on flesh.

Source: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco\\_angelus\\_20211212.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20211212.html)