



MERRY CHRISTMAS
December 25, 2023



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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Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com



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
gsirvington@comcast.net

Christmas Note from the Pastor's Desk To the Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

It gives me great joy and pleasure to be here with you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as your Administrator of this Parish Church of the Good Shepherd to celebrate the solemnity of the Lord's Incarnation. I thank all of you and your families for your sentiments of devotion and communion and for the warm good wishes that you expressed to me. As we have come to adore him venite, adoremus! as one family let us contemplate the mystery of Emmanuel, God-with-us, I sincerely and gladly thank you for your support and your generous contribution.

Repeatedly during the season of Advent as Church we pray seriously for vigilance, and for us to wake up from our dogmatic slumber and work for peace and love. The disintegration of the key principles of law and of the fundamental moral attitudes underpinning our society and world burst open the dams which until that time had protected peaceful coexistence among peoples. The sun was setting over an entire world. Frequent natural disasters further increased this sense of insecurity. There was no power in sight that could put a stop to this decline. All the more insistent, then, was the invocation of the power of God: the plea that he might come and protect his people from all these threats.

Today too, we have many reasons to associate ourselves with this Advent prayer of the Church. For all its new hopes and possibilities, our world is at the same time troubled by the sense that moral consensus is collapsing, consensus without which juridical and political structures cannot function. Consequently, the world leaders kept silent, and the forces mobilized for the defense of such structures seem doomed to failure.

Amid the great tribulations to which we have been exposed during the past year, this Advent prayer has frequently been in our minds and on our lips. We had begun the Year of Mercy with great joy and, thank God, we were also able to continue it with great gratitude, despite the fact that it unfolded so differently from the way we had expected.

On that note, let us rejoice and be glad for the Savior of the World is born today. So, on behalf of the members of the staff who humbly work for this parish, Ms. Denise Perry and I myself your parish Administrator, Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya, I wish all of you and to your families, Merry Christmas and May the Peace and Joy of the New Born King continue to protect you and his peace remain with you and may His Joy and Love be with you and during this coming year. Happy Christmas.

VENITE ADOREMUS – COME LET ADORE HIM.

Learn more at formed.org



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

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 December 23, 2023—December 30, 2023

Saturday 5:30pm Birthday Memorial Susan G. Reynaldo

Sunday 9:00am For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families
 Dec 24 11:00am H&WB of Oguh, Ngobili, & Agwunobi Families and Relatives
 9:00pm Memorial Birthday of Norma Gonzaga Cortez

Monday 9:00am In Memory of Albert Matthews

Tuesday 7:00am Bernabe Ladre +
 Dec 26

Wednesday 7:00am Junifer Flores RIP
 Dec 27

Thursday 7:00am For the Repose for the Soul of Deba Chapman
 Dec 28

Friday 7:00am For God's Protection and Guidance of Leon Davis

Saturday 8:30am For Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
 Dec 30 5:30pm For God's Protection and Guidance of Curtis Richards

Let us always remember in our prayers the sick members of our Parish

Kingsley Oba	Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson
Elizabeth Cassata	Pope Francis	Frank Rocchi	Camile Laidlaw
Frederick Hamilton	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	Venus Matthews
Tom O and Janice C	Jean Michelin	Corizon Abuzied	Bob and Barbara Nezlick

* 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

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.

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



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 _____

REPORT ABUSE
 Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints, and encourages anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct by the clergy, religious and lay staff to tell us immediately, so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to sexual abuse victims.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation may do so by calling the Child and Youth Protection. 201-407-3256, Fax: 973-497-4001. Or In person, 171 Clifton Avenue. Newark, NJ 07104.

Collection Report		December 17,, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,730.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 3,770..00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$54,290.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$292,251.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 2,783.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,717.00

Minister Assignments Nov 11– Nov 12, 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
12/30		TBD	
12/31		TBD	
12/31		TBD	

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Dec 24	
4th Sunday of Advent - 9AM & 11AM MASS Christmas Eve - 9:30PM Vigil Mass	
Monday Dec 25	
Christmas Day Nativity of Our Lord -Rectory closed 9:00AM and 11:00AM Mass	
Tuesday Dec 26	
Saint Stephen First Martyr Rectory Closed	
Wednesday Dec 27	
Saint John Evangelist	
Thursday Dec 28	
The Holy Innocents	
Friday Dec 29	
Saturday Dec 30	

Good Shepherd Parish Information

RECTORY HOURS: Monday / Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM; Tuesday 1:00PM-4:00PM

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

COME LET US ADORE HIM- VENITE, ADOREMUS.

Today God has become one of us in a humble form, God taking our humanity and came into our sinful and violent world. Let us rejoice and be glad for this is the day the Lord has made. God has spoken to our ancestors in the past through the prophets but today God has assumed our nature and has spoken to us through His only Begotten Son Jesus Christ. What a love?

1. “Descendit de caelis Salvator mundi. Gaudeamus!” The Savior of the world has come down from heaven. Let us rejoice! This proclamation, filled with deep rejoicing, echoed in the night of Bethlehem. Today the Church renews it with unchanged joy: The Savior is born for us! A wave of tenderness and hope fills our hearts, together with an overpowering need for closeness and peace. In the crib we contemplate the One who stripped himself of divine glory in order to become poor, driven by love for mankind. Beside the crib the Christmas tree, with its twinkling lights, reminds us that with the birth of Jesus the tree of life has blossomed anew in the desert of humanity. The crib and the tree: precious symbols, which hand down in time the true meaning of Christmas!

2. In the heavens there echoes the proclamation of the angels: “To you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). What wonder! By being born in Bethlehem, the Eternal Son of God has entered into the history of each person living on the face of the earth. He is now present in the world as the one Savior of humanity. For this reason, we pray to him: Savior of the world, save us!

3. Save us from the great evils which rend humanity in these first years of the third millennium. Save us from the wars and armed conflicts which lay waste whole areas of the world, from the scourge of terrorism and from the many forms of violence which assail the weak and the vulnerable. Save us from discouragement as we face the paths to peace, difficult paths indeed, yet possible and therefore necessary; paths which are always and everywhere urgent, especially in the Land where You were born, the Prince of Peace.

4. And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfillment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Savior, who brings hope and peace to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: We need You, Redeemer of man, you who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!” (Christmas message of Pp. St. John Paul II, Dec. 26, 2003).

As we celebrate this Solemnity of the Incarnation in a world where timid but hopeful efforts at peace co-exist with worries over wars between Israel and Palestine,- the Holy Land and several tragic conflicts in Africa, Russia and Ukraine, corruption and bribery, destruction and insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria, the Yamen terrorists on the Suez Canal of Mediterranean Sea, kidnapping ships, the political unrest and coups in some parts of Africa caused by greedy and corrupt leaders. “Babe of Bethlehem, Prophet of peace, encourage attempts to promote dialogue and reconciliation, sustain the efforts to build peace, which hesitantly, yet not without hope, are being made to bring about a more tranquil present and future for so many of our brothers and sisters of the world,” (Pp. St. John Paul II, Dec. 26. 2003).

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE
GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH



SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2023

9:00AM MASS

11:00AM MASS

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT BY THE CHOIR

8:30PM – 9:30PM

9:30PM – CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

MONDAY - DECEMBER 25, 2023 CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00AM MASS

11:00AM MASS

SATURDAY -DECEMBER 30, 2023

5:30PM MASS

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 31, 2023 NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:00AM MASS

11:00AM MASS

9:00PM MASS

MONDAY - JANUARY 1, 2024 NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00AM MASS ONLY

The Parish office will be closed December 26, 2023 and January 1, 2024.