



**2nd Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 10, 2023**



Prepare the Way of The Lord

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
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Second Sunday of Advent, From the Pastor's Corner. Dec. 10.

In today's readings extend a hope-filled invitation: Prepare, for the Lord is coming. This is the voice of one who spoke the truth preaching from the wilderness and how are we going to respond this truth from the wilderness of our lives? Wake up then, pay attention, repent, remember, the Church reverberates this morning. We live in an age that has pushed God to the margins. We might think of the growing number of our youths - who are not affiliated with any religion some who are doubtless, 'spiritual' people who still pray sometimes and have high ideals, but don't identify with any particular Church or creed. But their connection to the sacred is tenuous.

The whole society and societies around the world can likewise be forgetful of God and God's Commandments. During the years of the pandemic of COVID-19, for instance, the authorities treated religion as non-essential and worship as recreation. Today, we believers or Christians are regularly pressured to keep silent on social issues, people can lose their jobs for expressing religious opinions outside the workplace or in public places, even our sacraments interfered with and, despite lots of promises, our religious liberty are not properly protected. We are now witnessing radical secularism which is banishing and prohibiting people from practicing their faith and God is forgotten and relegated and has destroyed the fabric of our society and the principles this country was founded.

It's true then, for the prophets to address those who forget God and His law. But what does that say to us who, though far from perfect, are probably not the worst in society or in the world? What does it mean to call us to spiritual vigilance, to be awake, when we are the ones who openly identify as Catholic are not strong in bearing witness to the truth and gospel or we do not practice our faith.

Some of us can be so familiar with something we simply take it for granted. We can come to church, line up for Communion, and leave, without ever composing ourselves, reflecting, preparing a way for the Lord. Maybe we no longer genuflect towards the Blessed Sacrament when we come into church after Communion. It maybe that we have stopped believing in God's infinite mercy and graciousness,

*Thus, Advent is a time for us to 'remember not to forget' **God** in the things we do and think. This time, is also a call to remember others, to comfort my people - "all Judea and Jerusalem" - all affected by what we do or fail to do. Above all, it's about remembering not to forget God, ourselves and our neighbors who are in need and we are called to cultivating the spirit of charity and sharing the little we have with the poor and those who live in the fringes of our society, to comfort them and make them to feel that the time of their suffering is over as God spoke, through the prophet Isaiah to the people of his time. Today we are offered tender words of comfort, the promise of debt-free, forgiveness, the coming of a world filled with righteousness and goodness. This is a reminder of God's enduring faithfulness and love.*

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 9-December 16, 2023

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| Saturday Dec 9 | 5:30pm | Birthday Memorial of Leopaldo Bate |
| Sunday Dec 10 | 9:00am 11:00am | For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families H&WB Obiora, Ikebununo & Ihiegbonam Families and Relatives |
| Monday Dec 11 | 7:00am | For the Repose of the Soul of Debra Fitzpatrick |
| Tuesday Dec 12 | 7:00am | Concordia Ladra + |
| Wednesday Dec 13 | 7:00am | For the Repose of The Souls of Roger Gonzaga |
| Thursday Dec 14 | 7:00am | Concepcion Gonzaga |
| Friday Dec 15 | 7:00am | For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek |
| Saturday Dec 16 | 8:30am 5:30pm | For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek In Memory ofr 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

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Kingsley Oba | Paul Kocum | Sandi Mosley | Debbie Watson | Leon Davis |
| 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 3 2023 |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Weekly Target | | \$6,500.00 |
| Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy) | | \$ 3,112.00 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | | \$ 3,338.00 |
| Fiscal Year to Date | | |
| Budget: | | \$346,811.00 |
| Actual: | | \$54,670.00 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | | \$292,141.00 |
| Rolling 4 Week Averages | | |
| Average Collection: | | \$ 3,287.00 |
| Average Surplus (Deficit) | | \$3,213.00 |

Minister Assignments Dec 16—Dec17, 2023

| Saturday Sunday | Lectors | Eucharistic Ministers | Presider |
|--------------------|------------------|---|----------|
| 12/16 5:30pm | Denise Perry | Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate | Fr. Val |
| 12/17 9:00am | Barbara Chikezie | Mina Yago Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu-Obmezie | Fr. Val |
| 12/17 11:00am | Luer Drews | Jerome Hule Janice Camacho Denise Perry | Fr. Val |

GSP EVENT CALENDER

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday Dec 10 |
| 2nd Sunday of Advent—PREPARE |
| Monday Dec 11 |
| Saint Damasus I |
| Tuesday Dec 12 |
| Our Lady Guadalupe |
| Bible Study 7:00PM in the Rectory |
| Wednesday Dec 13 |
| Saint Lucy |
| Thursday Dec 14 |
| Saint John of The Cross |
| Friday Dec 15 |
| Saturday Dec 16 |

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

Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com , Email : gsirvington@comcast.net

Pope Francis' 'Paradigm Shift': What it Means and How to Respond to It (Part 1 con't)

Msgr. Nicola Bux addressing the Nov. 29 conference in Rome. (photo: Edward Pentin photo)

Mixing "Extreme Situations"

Elaborating on this point, Msgr. Bux said the "radical paradigm shift" now in vogue means to "believe in an urgency" to bring justice to the world in terms of "eliminating poverty, or of fair trade, fraternity," or mixing it with "extreme situations" such as "migrants, homosexuals, divorcees." Yet often one does not hear the words "Jesus Christ," he observed, and the Mass is "reduced to a television show with dance and applause." And all this is happening, he said, "while in the world reference to God is absent" and the world itself "becomes more and more indifferent, an enemy of the Church, of religion, of the faith, of God."

He went on to refer to words of Eugenio Scalfari, who said after one of his interviews with the Pope, that Francis was pushing for a "change" in the "concept of religion and divinity" that would result in a "cultural change" that would be difficult to modify. "If that were to happen," Msgr. Bux warned, "the consequences would be catastrophic."

Already, he said, the missionary drive is "diminished, a sign of a crisis of faith." He then pointed out a stark contradiction in Francis' words: on the one hand, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, he affirms that mission and proclamation of the Gospel are the "paradigm," but on the other hand, and "in a Peronist way as they say in Buenos Aires," he has said there is "no Catholic God" and that proselytism "is a solemn nonsense; not to convert but to serve, to walk together."

Msgr. Bux then drew further on St. John Paul II, in particular a quotation from his encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*: "The unity of the Church is damaged not only by Christians who reject or distort the truths of faith but also by those who disregard the moral obligations to which they are called by the Gospel."

He also addressed Ureta's recommendation in his book to resist those Church leaders who read the "paradigm shift" as a "rupture" with the Church's teaching and tradition.

Msgr. Bux made the point that the Holy Spirit "was not promised to Peter's successors to reveal a new doctrine, but to guard the deposit of faith." And quoting recent [comments](#) of Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he noted that the Pope's authority extends "over the revealed Faith of the Catholic Church and not over the individual theological opinions of himself or those of his advisers."

Because of this, Msgr. Bux said, "there are occasions in which it is legitimate to prudently suspend assent." When the Cross of Christ is "made vain," in order not to lose faith he proposed "conscientious objection and fidelity to the Pope in spite of the Pope" — again quoting from Ureta's book.

"The evolution in the Church's understanding of the Gospel over the centuries is not a question of a paradigm shift," he concluded, "but of the development of doctrine, organic and in continuity with the faith."