



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 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

PASTOR'S DESK FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION

Advent is a short season, but it is a long road of a soul from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It is such a short distance as we accustomed to thinking of distance. Yet it is a road into infinity, into eternity, it has a beginning, and no end. It is a journey that requires no GPS or compass, the only GPS we need is the little child- Jesus born in Bethlehem. In truth, Advent is the road of the spiritual life, the pathway all of us must take if we wish to get to heaven.

It is the place from which we must start if we do not want to miss our destination. We must start with a *fiat* that re-echoes Mary's *fiat*. A *fiat* each of us should say in the quiet and silence of our hearts, and preferably at eventide when all creation is still.

Advent is a time of standing tall, and yet making a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage in which we don't use our feet. A pilgrimage in which we stand still and yet walk a thousand miles across the world or so. Advent is a time to be watchful, to be vigilant, watchful and awake and a time for preparing to meet God by turning away from quarrels, disputes, terrorism and war that so engulf us and our world. Advent is a time to discipline our tongue, to cultivate in our hearts the harvests which God wants: peace, reconciliation, justice and love.

The readings of this Sunday warn us to stop hiding our heads in the sand and to take stock of what is happening, to wake up, to come to our senses. If God can break into our lives by taking our human nature, then this season of Advent can challenge us to be on guard for the coming of God, both at Christmas and at the end of time. So, let's enter, you and I, into the pilgrimage that doesn't take us from home.

Ours is a journey of the spirit, which is a thousand times harder than a journey of the feet. The question is this: Are you ready and awake? Let us go.

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 2—December 9, 2023

Saturday Dec 2	5:30pm	For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families
Sunday Dec 3	9:00am 11:00am	In Memory of Tristen Brevik Thanksgiving for God's Tender mercies and Favors Received
Monday Dec 4	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews
Tuesday Dec 5	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Denilo Ernas
Wednesday Dec 6	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
Thursday Dec 7	7:00am	For Repose of the Soul of Anna Hinton
Friday Dec 8	7:00am 7:00pm	For the Protection of Babies in the Wmb and Their Families For God's Guidance and Protection of the People of God Shepherd Parish
Saturday Dec 9	8:30am 5:30pm	Memorial Mass for Jerome & Odette Jeannotte Birthday Memorial of Leopaldo C. 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		November 26, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,847.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 3,653.0
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$56,926.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$289,885.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 3,04000
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,640.00

Minister Assignments Dec - Dec , 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
12/09 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
11/10 9:00am	Paulette Anderson -Spence	Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
11/10 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Jerome Hule Janet Drews Luer Drews	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Dec 03
First Sunday of Advent
Monday Dec 04
Saint John Damascene
Tuesday Dec 05
Bible Study Group 7:00PM in the Rectory
Wednesday Dec 06
Saint Nicholas
Thursday Dec 07
Saint Ambrose
Friday Dec 08
7am and 7pm Mass Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation +
Saturday Dec 09
Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

THE SEASON IN WHICH TO KNOW GOD & PRAYING FOR LIGHT.

Around this time of the year here in the Northeast of the United States, people invariably are complaining and talking about, on the shorting of the days. The closer we get to the winter solstice, the shorter the days become and the earlier it gets dark as we have been witnessing for the past weeks. Combined with the bleak and cold weather, it can feel discouraging because of the darkness. But when Christmas is over, few weeks after, everyone starts to remark on a certain lightening, which is gradually in process noticeable. Then people's spirit seems to lift, because spring is slowly coming up.

For we Catholic Christians, this season holds an invitation to ponder the paschal and salvation mysteries while addressing the tactics of liturgical preparation and celebration, the pastor, the pastoral leadership or council and pastoral care. The spiritual and ministerial aspects of our lives sometimes become out of balance, with details winning out over the hopes and desires of our hearts. This is perhaps more likely at Christmas than in any other liturgical season. We often acknowledge the challenge of celebrating Christmas throughout season when the world around us began to sing the Christmas carols, people began to decorate their homes with lights, Santa; and Christmas tree with ornaments. Of course, this is not the only challenge. The season is also often filled with memories and images of Christmas, Christmas shopping both online and in person in different shopping centers and a myriad of social and family gatherings, which makes it possible to appreciate and enjoy the richness of this season of waiting. With all these activities going on in our lives, it may feel that there is no room for our Lord Jesus in the inn of our hearts.

Advent is a time to ponder that slowness. It's primarily a season of waiting and preparation. We can all have an ostrich-like mentality. The readings of this season speak of the Lord's coming, to be vigilant and be prepared. They warn us to stop hiding our heads in the sand and to take stock of what is happening, to wake up, to come to the senses. Indeed, the whole season of Advent is a time for looking at the wider picture- not just in order to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, but to see how ready we are to welcome Him at his Second Coming, on that day when we all will each meet him face to face on that Holy Mountain, as the prophet Isaiah spoke about where the Lord of Host will throw a banquet for all peoples and nations and wipe away every tear from our eyes.

It is so easy to keep focused on the day-to-day, to be caught up by the many things which claim our attention- our job, our problems, our health, our families how to put food on the table, our relationships, our plans, and other needs. When we do, we are like people who pretend that death is somehow going to pass us by. We know intellectually that this is not the case, but we live as if it were. We can be so preoccupied with the business of living, that we forget the wider questions of why we are here, and what is the purpose and meaning of life. Advent is a time for pausing and making time to reflect on these important questions. Advent invites us to stop looking at the trees and to see the wood. It means reminding ourselves of why we are here, what our lives are for. It also means remembering that we will one day have to stand before the Son of God. This Advent is a time of prayer, for slow dawning in our hearts of the Light of Christ.