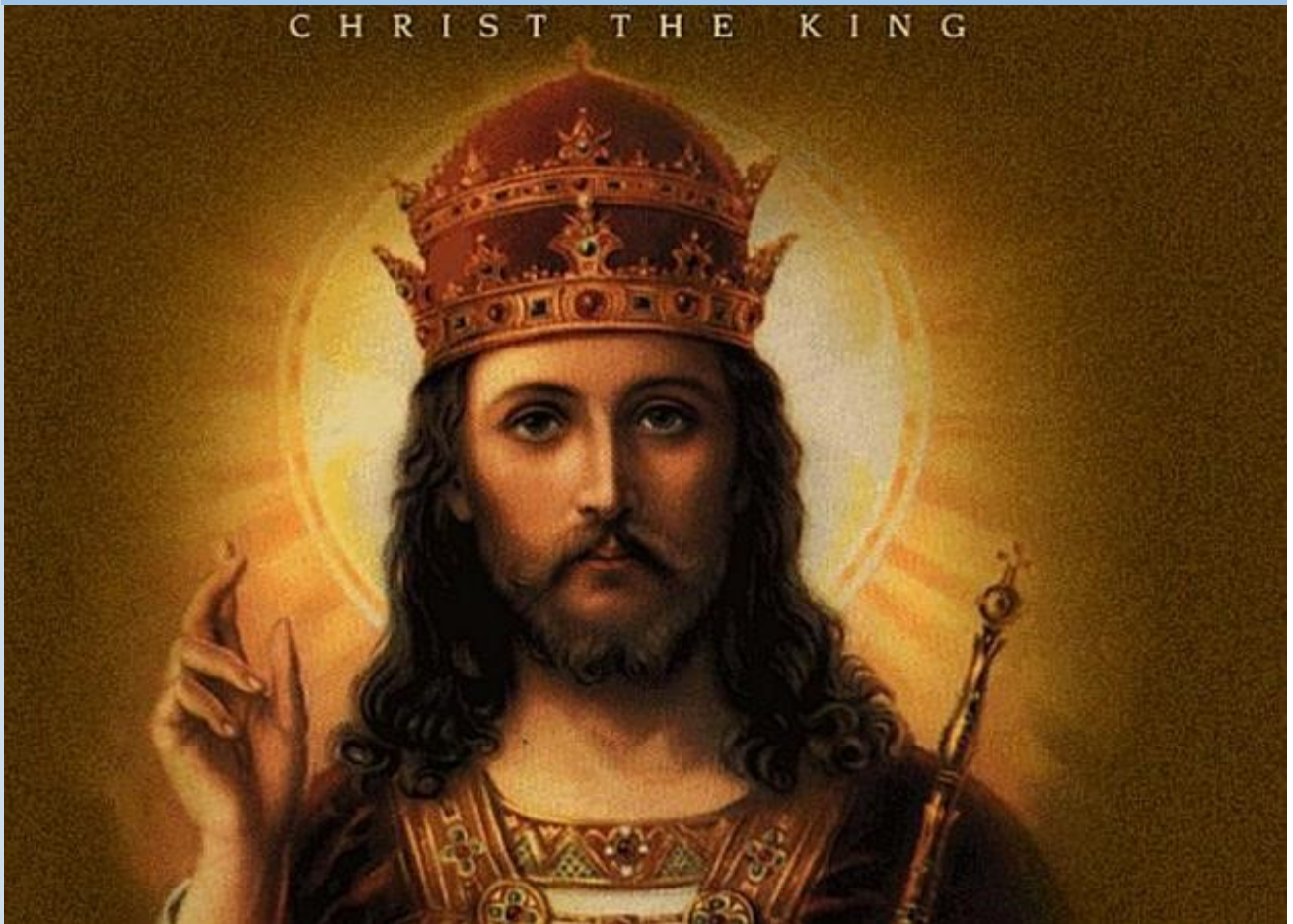




**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2023**



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.”

954 Stuyvesant Ave Irvington NJ 07111 Phone: (973) 375-8568

Fax (973) 375-7040 Email gsirvington@comcast.net

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

From Pastor's Desk Christ the King of the Universe Nov. 2023.

Today's Solemnity Christ the King of the Universe is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Church's liturgical year. The following Sunday begins Advent season. Through this feast exalts the royal and divine attributes of our Blessed Lord Jesus. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies the coming of a Messiah who will humbly as a shepherd, focusing his efforts on seeking out the lost, the straying, the sick and injured. *"I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark."*

This shepherd promises a safe ground for pasture, and rest for the weary of his flock. Above all, Ezekiel the prophet suggests the personal concern and care the Lord will show for each of his lambs: *"I myself will look after and tend my sheep."* This reading is very much in the mind of Jesus our Lord, centuries later when he evokes the same image in the Gospel- that of the shepherd separating the sheep from the goats.

This image is a very powerful in today's Gospel from Matthew, as our Lord Jesus sits on his glorious throne surrounded by his angels, with the nations assembled before him waiting to be judged. It is clear that those sheep who have listened to his voice will be welcomed fully into his Kingdom, for they will have been living in the Kingdom on earth. The goats, however, will be left aside, having not listened the simple commands of their shepherd.

Today we have gathered here, to hail our King and Savior, it means that we, however, well or imperfect, should listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd. By the way we cooperate with the grace of God, we can continue what we are doing, we can begin again to listen and obey the word of the Shepherd and help to bring his Kingdom here on earth now.

As we celebrate this Solemnity, let us share this love of the Shepherd with those who on the fringes of our society, the abandoned and the marginalized. Let's listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and should not allow our consumerist society enculturate us but to allow the Shepherd to evangelize us. This is a counter culture.

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 November 25, - December 2, 2023

Saturday Nov 25	5:30pm	In Memory of Dominadir Bate +
Sunday Nov 26	9:00am	For the Protection ob Babies in the Womb and Their Families
	11:00am	For the Protection ob Babies in the Womb and Their Families
Monday Nov 27	7:00am	The Anniversary Death of Luz Dolly Servia and Gloria Ortiz
Tuesday Nov 28	7:00am	Health and Wellbeing of Denise Perry
Wednesday Nov 29	7:00am	For the repose of Catherine and Benjamin Perry
Thursday Nov 30	7:00am	For the repose of Celestina Ugwuanya
Friday Dec 01	7:00am	For the repose of Jacinta Ugwuanya
Saturday Dec 02	8:30am	For the repose of Alfred Tatyrek
	5:30pm	For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families

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



SACRAMENTAL CANDLE
FOR THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LUZ DOLLY F. SEVILLA AND GLORIA ORTIZ FROM ANGELA SEVILLA NOV 26- DEC 2, 2023

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

Collection Report		November 19, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ Data Not
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ Available
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$51,560.00
Surplus (Deficit)		
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$

Minister Assignments Dec2– Dec 3, 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
12/02 5:30pm	Doris Omoighe	Mina Yago Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
12/03 9:00am	Cheryl Laidlaw	Venus Matthews Helen Chife-Akude Stanislaus Egeolu- Obmezie	Fr. Val
12/03 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Jerome Hule Janice Camacho	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Nov 26
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
Monday Nov 27
7:30PM Pastoral Council Meeting in the Rectory
Tuesday Nov 28
Wednesday Nov 29
Thursday Nov 30
Saint Andrew Apostle
Friday Dec 01
Saturday Dec 02

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

JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" ~[Matthew 25:31-34](#)

The liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King was added to the Church calendar in 1925, when Pope Pius XI instituted it with his encyclical *Quas Primas*. The eschatological event it celebrates has been in the mind and heart of the Blessed Trinity from before the beginning of time and was clearly proclaimed by Jesus in His public ministry. At the time Pope Pius XI instituted it, the world was in political and social chaos. After World War I ended in 1918, secularism began to grow worldwide, and communist and fascist ideologies emerged, leading many to question and even abandon their faith. The unity of faith and civil governance, which had been part of the make-up of Europe since the fourth century, slowly crumbled, and God's sovereignty over the world was readily dismissed. Though the concept of the separation of the Church and state can be helpful to both the Church and the State, if God's authority and laws are excluded from human governance, man is left to his own designs and inevitably goes astray.

Upon seeing the social and political culture of the 1920s devolve, Pope Pius XI felt that he needed to remind the Church and the world that there is only one King, and that King is not only the King of Catholics, He is the King of humanity, of the entire Universe. In his encyclical letter, Pope Pius quotes Pope Leo XIII who said in his encyclical on the Sacred Heart, *Annum Sacrum*, "[Christ's] empire includes not only Catholic nations, not only baptized persons...but also all those who are outside the Christian faith; so that truly the whole of mankind is subject to the power of Jesus Christ." Pope Pius XI goes on to say, "Nor is there any difference in this matter between the individual and the family or the State; for all men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. In him is the salvation of the individual, in him is the salvation of society" (*Quas Primas* #18).

The original date this feast was celebrated was the Sunday prior to All Saints Day (the last Sunday of October). But with the liturgical reform of 1969, it was moved to the last Sunday of the liturgical year, thus highlighting that Jesus Christ, the King, is the destination of our earthly pilgrimage. There are Biblical texts specific to all three years of the liturgical cycle which help us fully grasp the person of Jesus.

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, known as the *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*. We began moving toward this goal with the First Sunday of Advent. Today we have reached it. Given the fact that the Liturgical Year represents our own life in miniature, this experience reminds us, and even more educates us, that we are on a journey toward an encounter with Jesus, the Spouse, when He will come as the King and Lord of life and of history. The coming we are now awaiting is His second coming. His first coming was in the humility of a Child laid in a manger (cf. Lk. 2:7); His second coming will be when He returns in glory at the end of time which we liturgically celebrate today.

With what is going around our world today, in different countries, the totalitarian regime or rule in some countries where people do not have their freedom of speech and worship. In our country, the United States of America, in its core document, [Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty](#), the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty "urge[d] that the Solemnity of Christ the King—a feast born out of resistance to totalitarian incursions against religious liberty—be a day specifically employed by bishops and priests to preach about religious liberty, both here and abroad." Let us pray fervently that we will help others encounter anew Christ, our King, bringing the Gospel to the margins of society, that all might bear witness to Him before others.