



26TH Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 1, 2023



The Parable of the Two Sons
Which One Did Their Fathers
Will?

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK 26TH SUNDAY OCT 1, 2023

LET US HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE THAT IS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS

It's not fair! How many times have we heard this from our children or some body who thought he or she was not treat equitably or rightly or we utter these words about our boss or, God forbid, felt this way about God.

The Jewish community in Judah and Babylon in the time of Ezekiel the prophet certainly felt that way about God, at least until they came to a greater understanding of God's promises to them through Ezekiel's words of judgment and encouragement. Ezekiel speaks for God when he tells the people that it is because of sin, wickedness and lack of virtue that punishment has befallen them- not that suffering and difficulties have come to them because God is unfair. They learn they are responsible for their own actions: if they do what is right and just, they will live: if they do not, they will die.

This same encouragement -yes, encouragement! - comes to us from St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians. For as we heard from Ezekiel, the promise of life is not based on things beyond our human capability to choose that which is good and right and just. Even when our human faults and weaknesses cloud our understanding, we can still choose to follow God's command, as the first son in today's gospel reading did. We may not know why he initially refused, but we know by his actions that he is the one who had the same attitude as our Lord Jesus Christ because he did as his Father asked. Today, we are asked to recognize that words alone are not what is important. Words lose meaning when actions contradict them. Our action in the world is what is definitional of our character and of our real faith. Let us do the same. Trust in God promises, let us rely on Christ's help and allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to work in us- so that in all we might do have the attitude of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Learn more at formed.org



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

*Good Shepherd Parish Religious Education Program for 2023-2024 has begun.
Classes are on Sunday mornings, 10:00AM – 11:00 AM
Tuition: 1 child - \$50.00, 2 children - \$75.00 , 3 or more children - \$85.00
Please complete the registration form found in the back of the church with ALL the information requested for each child that will be attending CCD, make checks payable to Good Shepherd CCD and bring to the rectory.
All NEW students must provide a Baptismal certificate
If you have any questions, please call the rectory at 973-375-8568*

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—515pm	National Holidays —9:00am Adoration Mon-Fri 7:30am-6:00pm
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Mass Intentions For the week of September30 —October 7, 2023

Saturday 5:30pm Thanksgiving for God's Tender Mercies and Favors

Sept 30

Sunday 9:00am In Memory of Tristen Brevik

Oct 1 11:00am Birthday and Anniversary for Beatrice Duru and Family

Monday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek

Oct 2

Tuesday 7:00am Anastacia Ortila +

Oct 3

Wednesday 7:00am H&WB Frank Rocchi

Oct 4

Thursday 7:00am H&WB Curtis Richards

Oct 5

Friday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Rogelio Gonzaga

Oct 6

Saturday 8:30am For the Repose of the soul of Cindi Anzalone+

Oct 7 5:30pm Margaret Hammer+

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
Elizabeth Cassata	Pope Francis	Josephine DiPietro	Frank Rocchi
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-6:00PM.

To gain access to the adoration room
reservations are required.

Please visit the rectory to reserve your date and time.

Any question please call the rectory at 973-375-8568

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.



Please contact Fr. Valentine or call the rectory if you are interested in Intentions, of a Sanctuary Lamp, Alter bread and wine or Alter Flowers

Collection Report		September 24 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,065.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,435.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$42,093.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$304,713.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,969.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,531.00

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Oct 1	
Religious Education classes 10:00AM-11:00AM	
Monday Oct 2	
The Holy Guardian Angels	
Tuesday Oct 3	
Wednesday Oct 4	
Saint Francis of Assisi	
Thursday Oct 5	
Saint Faustina Kowalska and Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos	
Friday Oct 6	
Saint Bruno and Blessed Marie Rose Durocher	
Saturday Oct 7	
Our Lady of the Rosary	

Minister Assignments Sept. 30– Oct. 1, 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
10/7 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
10/8 9:00am	Alexandra Dunac	Helen Chife-Aduke Mina Yago Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
10/8 11:00am	Luer Drews	Janet Drews Jerome Hule Janice Camacho	Fr. Val

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

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Life and Doctrine of the Faith

A Dialogue with Víctor Manuel Fernández

By Fr. Antonio Spadaro, SJ September 14, 2023

Archbishop Victor Fernandez with Antonio Spadaro

I first met Víctor Manuel Fernández^[1] – who will be created cardinal on September 30 – in Argentina in September 2014 at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, of which he was then rector. Exactly one year later he came to the offices of *La Civiltà Cattolica* in Rome to give a talk at an international seminar on “Reform and Reforms in the Church.”^[2] He spoke on the topic “The Gospel, the Spirit and Ecclesial Reform in the Thought of Pope Francis.” Subsequently, the synod experience has let our paths intertwine.

Now that he is assuming the challenging task of Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, I felt it was important to let the readers of our journal hear his voice in order to better understand his formation and perspectives.

The Church rejects fideism and defends the value of reason, recognizing the need for dialogue between faith and reason, which are not contradictory. But one needs to be careful, because sometimes there is a particular type of reason that tries to take center stage in the Church, a set of principles that tries to govern everything, even if it is ultimately a mind-set, more philosophical than theological, claiming that everything else must submit to it. It wants to take the place of Revelation! Those who possess this mind-set, this way of reasoning, the supposedly only possible structure of rational principles, claim to be the only ones who can correctly interpret Revelation and truth; they alone are “serious,” “intelligent” and “faithful.” This explains the power that some churchmen arrogate to themselves, going so far as to determine what the pope can or cannot say, and presenting themselves as guarantors of the legitimacy and unity of the faith. After all, the mind-set of which they consider themselves to be absolute guardians is a source of power that they want to safeguard against everything. It is not a matter of reason, but of power.

Who do you consider to be your guide in theology?

Although the training I received was strictly Thomistic, my great teacher was another giant of scholasticism, St. Bonaventure. I delved into his thought as a seminarian, continued to read him with profit, and my doctoral thesis was on the relationship between knowledge and life in his thought. The insistence, derived from his Franciscan context, on a theology capable of nourishing the spiritual life and, at the same time, affecting the actual lives of people, left an indelible impression on me. It goes back to Francis of Assisi himself, who wrote to St. Anthony of Padua, “I am pleased that you teach sacred theology to the brothers, provided that in this occupation you do not extinguish the spirit of prayer and devotion, as it is written in the Rule.” Do we not see this same concern in Pope Francis’ insistence that all Christian thought, at every stage of formation, be marked by the proclamation of the *kerygma* aimed at stimulating an experience of faith?