



29TH Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 22, 2023



Give to Cesar
what belongs to
Cesar and to
GOD WHAT
BELONGS TO
GOD

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

29TH SUNDAY OF O.T. OCT. 22ND 2023 THE PASTOR'S REFLECTION

OUR PRIMARY ALLEGIANCE IS TO GOD

“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” Our Lord Jesus is asked in today’s gospel. Matthew makes it clear that those question who ask this question- Pharisees and Herodians, are interested in one thing only: how they might entrap Jesus in speech. These two groups were bitter enemies. Israel was under Roman rule. If our Lord Jesus answered “yes” he might forfeit his popularity with denounced to the authorities for inciting people to break the law. They would have immediately accused Jesus of promoting civil rebellion and revolution, if he had said “don’t pay the taxes.” Our Lord Jesus does not give either of the answers his questioners were looking for. Jesus’ reply, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar,” rejects the radical position of those who claimed that the Roman rule and occupation was unlawful and should not be obeyed at all. All the emphasis, however, is on the second part of Jesus’ answer: “to God what belongs to God.”

Our allegiance to country- be it the United States or other nation- is important, but never more important than our allegiance to God. Our primary identity is not as citizens of a particular country, but as children of God. It is God to whom we belong, first and foremost. We are God’s we belong to Him. We must repay to God what belongs to God. How do we do this? We do this by giving to God our very selves: loving him with our whole heart, all our soul. All our mind. We do this by giving God the best we have to offer: our first fruits of time, talent, and treasure. We do this by giving God our primary allegiance: putting God first, before nations or kingdoms, political or economic systems, institutions or ideologies. This is the message of today’s readings.



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2. Enter our Parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and shar with others in our community



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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 October 21- 28 2023

Saturday	5:30pm	Memory of Pedro Cerrillo
Oct 21		
Sunday	9:00am	Memory of Tristen Brevik
Oct 22	11:00am	H&WB of Petgrave, Darrell, Jones & Williams & Family
Monday	7:00am	The Repose of the Soul of Bernado Gonzaga
Oct 23		
Tuesday	7:00am	H&WB Kingsley Obo
Oct 17		
Wednesday	7:00am	H&WB Curtis Richards
Oct 24		
Thursday	7:00am	The Repose of Alfred Tatyrek
Oct 25		
Friday	7:00am	H&WB Sandi Mosley
Oct 26		
Saturday	8:30am	Armando Piciucco & Family
Oct 27	5:30pm	For the Protection of the 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
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-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		October 15, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,594.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 6,906.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$45,999.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$300,812.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 2.982.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 3,518.00

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Oct . 22	
Monday Oct 23	Saint John Capistrano
Tuesday Oct 24	Saint Anthony Mary Claret
Wednesday Oct 25	
Thursday Oct 26	
Friday Oct 27	6:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal in the church
Saturday Oct 28	Saints Simon and Jude

Minister Assignments Oct 28— Oct. 29, 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
10/28 5:30pm	Al Papp	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
10/29 9:00am	Alexandra Dunac	Augustine Boakye Helen Chife-Akude Ve- nus Matthews	Fr. Val
10/29 11:00am	Earnest Devine	Janice Camacho Jreome Hule Melyn Lopino	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

Christians should be open to change, not rigid, Pope Francis says



Vatican City — August 21, 2023

Christians must stand firm in their faith but that is not the same as being rigid and unwilling to bend out of compassion for another, Pope Francis said.

God is love and "the one who loves does not remain rigid. Yes, they stand firm, but not rigid; they do not remain rigid in their own positions, but allow themselves to be moved and touched," the pope said Aug. 20 before reciting the midday Angelus prayer with an estimated 10,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Among the crowd were 29 seminarians who had just arrived to begin their studies at the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome. Pope Francis gave them a shoutout and wished them "a good formation journey." In his main talk, Pope Francis commented on the day's Gospel reading, Mt 15:21-28, which tells the story of the Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter. At first, Jesus brushes her off since she is not Jewish. But he sees her persistent faith and grants her request.

"Later," the pope said, "the Holy Spirit would push the church to the ends of the world," but at that point Jesus was preaching to the Jews. "Faced with her concrete case, he becomes even more sympathetic and compassionate," the pope said. "This is what God is like: he is love, and the one who loves does not remain rigid." "Love is creative," he said. "And we Christians who want to imitate Christ, we are invited to be open to change."

In the life of faith and in relationships with others, the pope said, people need to pay attention and to be willing "to soften up in the name of compassion and the good of others, like Jesus did with the Canaanite woman."

Of course, he said, another aspect of the story is the woman's strong and insistent faith that Jesus could heal her daughter. The woman "probably had little or no awareness of the laws and religious precepts" of Judaism, but she draws near to Jesus, prostrates herself and has a "frank dialogue" with him, the pope said.

"This is the concreteness of faith, which is not a religious label but is a personal relationship with the Lord," he said.

Francis asked people to consider whether they show the compassion and flexibility of Jesus and the bold faith of the Canaanite woman.

"Do I know how to be understanding and do I know how to be compassionate, or do I remain rigid in my position? Is there some rigidity in my heart, which is not firmness? Rigidity is bad, but firmness is good."

"Do I know how to be understanding and do I know how to be compassionate, or do I remain rigid in my position?" he suggested they ask. "Is there some rigidity in my heart, which is not firmness? Rigidity is bad, but firmness is good."

"Do I know how to dialogue with the Lord? Do I know how to insist with him? Or am I content to recite beautiful formulas?" he continued. Francis also drew attention to the ongoing conflict in Niger where a military coup overthrew the president in late July and where the bishops have opposed the idea of other countries in the region using their military to restore democracy.

"I join the bishops' appeal in favor of peace in the country and for stability in the Sahel region," the pope said. "I accompany with my prayers the efforts of the international community to find a peaceful solution as soon as possible for everyone's benefit."

"Let us pray for the dear people of Niger and let us also pray for peace for all populations wounded by war and violence," he said. "Let us especially pray for Ukraine, which has been suffering for some time." Now we are called to pray seriously for peace to reign in the Holy Land between the Israelis and the Palestinians both have lost thousands of lives, slaughtered and millions rendered homeless and have nothing to eat. Pray for **these people especially little children who are innocent and who are trapped in this senseless war.**