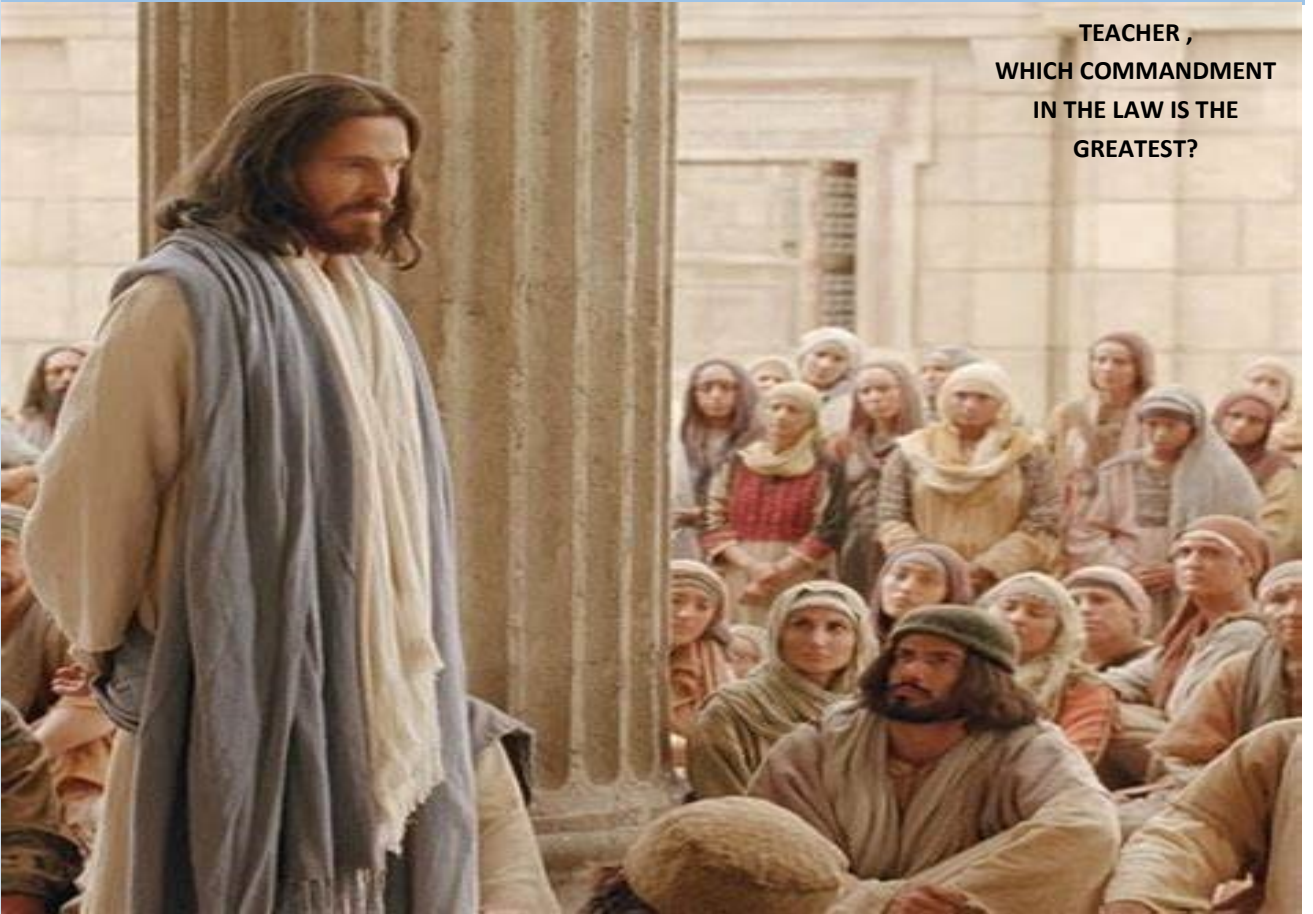




**30TH Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 29, 2023**



**TEACHER ,  
WHICH COMMANDMENT  
IN THE LAW IS THE  
GREATEST?**

**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](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.goodshepherdnj.com](http://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 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME OCT. 29, 2023.**

Here we go again. The opponents of our Lord Jesus just won't give up! Last week, they tried to trip him up on the sticky question of who to pay taxes to Caesar or God. Today is a cunning attempt to lead him into a hair-splitting debate and lose him in the wilderness of the subtleties of the Mosaic Law! It is noteworthy that Matthew uses the same Greek word here -to test- as when describing Jesus' earlier confrontation with Satan in the desert during his temptation. Clearly, he wants us to understand that those who test Jesus are in league with, or at least unwittingly doing, the work of Satan.

Matthew sets the scene well! A Pharisee – a lawyer – asks Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. His response does not seek to set aside the Law, but instead to interpret it more fully. For our Lord Jesus, the greatest commandment is found in the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 6:5): You shall love the Lord your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole soul (being), and your whole strength. Jesus' answer emphasizes the centrality of love- a cord that binds together the human heart and soul and directs us toward God. While asked for only one commandment, our Lord Jesus adds a second, quoting from Leviticus (19:18) which says is equal to and inseparable from the first: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Everything, he says, hangs on these two interrelated commandments.

Like a door on two hinges that will not open or close properly if out of alignment, so too, our lives if we do not love God and our neighbor. Jesus is not discounting either commandment, but simply emphasizing the interconnectedness in these two commandments and they are foundational of what we do or say. Thus, "loving God and neighbor" is not just a summary of commandments as rules to follow, but a whole new way of living that incorporates our relationship with God into everything we do.

Learn more at [formed.org](http://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 October 28 —November 4,, 2023**

Saturday Oct 28	5:30pm	For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families
Sunday Oct 29	9:00am	Memory of Tristen Brevik
	11:00am	Thanksgiving fo God's Tender Mercies and Favors Recieved
Monday Oct 30	7:00am	H&WB Venus Matthews
Tuesday Oct 31	7:00am	Susan G. Reynaldo's Death Anniversary
Wednesday Nov 01	7:00am	For all the Souls of the Tokpe Family & Relatives
Thursday Nov 02	7:00am	The Commemoration of all the Faithfully Departed
	6:00pm	The Commemoration of all the Faithfully Departed
Friday Nov 03	7:00am	The Commemoration of all the Faithfully Departed
Saturday Nov 04	8:30am	The Commemoration of all the Faithfully Departed
	5:30pm	The Commemoration of all the Faithfully Departed

*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 of Service are needed:** 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 22, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,434.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,066.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$48,433.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$298,378.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$ 3,074.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,426.00

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Oct . 29	
11AM Mass Confirmation immediately after Light Refreshments and photos with Bishop Cruz in the Gym	
Monday Oct 30	
Tuesday Oct 31	
Wednesday Nov 01	
All Saints Day	
Thursday Nov 02	
All Souls Day 7:00am Mass and 6:00PM Mass	
Friday Nov 03	
Saint Martin de Porres	
Saturday Nov 04	
Saint Charles Borromeo	

**Minister Assignments Nov 04-Nov05, 2023**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
11/04 5:30pm	Doris Omoighe	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
11/05 9:00am	Marylyn Amah	Venus Matthews Helen Chife-Akude Alexandra Dunac	Fr. Val
11/05 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Jerome Hule Luer Drews Janet Drews	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

# Synod on Synodality Asked to ‘Rethink the Whole Church’ According to Synodality

Father Dario Vitali speaks at the Synod on Synodality at the Vatican, Oct. 18, 2023.

Hannah Brockhaus/CAN [Vatican](#) October 18, 2023

The next stage of the Vatican’s Synod on Synodality opened Wednesday with a call to focus on authority, decentralization, the co-responsibility of the laity, and concrete changes to the institutional Church.

Before beginning discussions Oct. 18, delegates were presented with a sweeping vision for the hierarchical Church in a theological exposition from Father Dario Vitali.

“When we reach the consensus that the Church is constitutively synodal, we will have to rethink the whole Church, all the institutions, the whole life of the Church in a synodal sense,” the Italian theologian said. Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe also spoke about “new processes, institutions, and structures,” and Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich asked what concrete changes the synod assembly can bring about for lay Catholics.

“Big media” will evaluate the synod based on possible changes “on a very limited number of subjects,” Cardinal Hollerich told synod delegates as he introduced the next topic for discussion: “Participation, governance, and authority.” Instead, people in parishes and on pastoral councils, the relator general said Oct. 18, “are wondering what will change for them, how they will be able to concretely experience in their lives that missionary discipleship and co-responsibility on which we have reflected in our work.”

Delegates to the Oct. 4–29 assembly of the Synod on Synodality began discussing [the last part](#) of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, on Wednesday afternoon. Section B3 of the document says one of the priorities addressed during the continental stage of the synod was “the question of authority, its meaning, and the style of its exercise within a synodal Church.” It also asks: “How can we imbue our structures and institutions with the dynamism of the missionary synodal Church?”

## ‘Rethink Ecclesial Institutions’

Father Vitali, coordinator of expert theologians at the synod, told the assembly Wednesday that “the possibility of developing a style and a synodal form of Church depends on the virtuous circularity of ‘sensus fidei’ [sense of the faith], magisterium, and theology.” “Having broken this alliance has left the Church to navigate by sight,” he said, while “a true exercise of synodality will allow us to think with patience and prudence about the necessary institutional reforms and decision-making processes that involve everyone in an exercise of authority that is truly suitable for the growth of the people of God, a mature and participating people in this horizon.”

Lay Catholics, Cardinal Hollerich said in his remarks, “are wondering how this is possible in a Church that is still not very synodal, where they feel that their opinion does not count and a few or just one person decides everything.” People are interested “in the small but sensitive changes to the issues we are preparing to tackle,” he added. Father Vitali addressed the topics of authority and decentralization in the Church in light of synodality in a theological reflection for synod delegates.

“The synod process can be understood as the most complete exercise of synodality in the Catholic Church,” he said, and “starting from here we can begin to rethink ecclesial institutions.” “But rather than listing individual reforms, criteria must be indicated that can inspire a reform of the Church itself in a synodal sense,” the Italian theologian said. Synodality, he continued, “does not unilaterally emphasize the role of the people of God or that of the pastors, but of all the subjects — the people of God, the College of Bishops, the bishop of Rome — articulating dynamic unity, synodality, collegiality and primacy.” In his own address to the assembly, Father Radcliffe said in its last module the Synod on Synodality will now consider “what new processes, institutions, and structures are needed.”

“These will not be solutions to management problems but fuller expressions of who we are,” he said. “What institutions do we need to express who we are as men and women of peace in an age of violence, inhabitants of the digital continent?” the priest said. “Every baptized person is a prophet. How do we recognize and embrace the role of prophecy in the Church today? What about the prophetic voice of women, still often seen as ‘guests in their own house’?”

“The history of the Church is of endless institutional creativity,” Father Radcliffe underlined.