



**27TH Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 8, 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](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

## PASTOR'S HOMILY REFLECTION OF 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN O.T. OCT. 8, 2023.

### God calls us to bear good fruit and to be good stewards of his vineyard.

Those of us who have ever had a garden know how much work it is. We can only imagine how much work is involved with setting up an entire vineyard. Prophet Isaiah describes some of what was involved in today's first reading. If we wonder why there was a watch-tower in the vineyard, it was necessary to watch and protect the grapes day and night from thieves and predators. In the reading, the landowner who takes great care in setting up his vineyard, only to be deeply disappointed by the results. In both cases, the landowner is clearly meant to represent God, but there are distinct differences. Isaiah says that the vineyard is the house of Israel. In spite of God's great care for the people of Israel, they disappoint him and do not produce the fruit of obedience to the covenant that God desires.

St. Paul's encourages the Philippians today to have no anxiety at all. Right St. Paul, easier said than done. We become anxious about people- about our children, our spouse, or our aging parents. We also become anxious about things about work, the austerity or inflation we are witnessing now, mortgages, bills and car payments. When we become anxious, we disturb the quiet within, thus we become disquiet. St. Paul today seems to imply that in order to enter into prayer, into dialogue with God, we need to set aside our anxiousness. This is not easy for us. The distractions of our daily lives often overrun our quiet moments with God, but this we must guard against.

We who are here, baptized into the kingdom, would do well to pay as much attention and heed to these words as those to whom they were spoken should have. God has blessed us with the land and the means for reaping the bounty, and by his grace we bring about the fruit of goodness, justice and peace. As God's tenants in this world, God gives us all the equipment we need-talents, work, education, special opportunities- to further the kingdom of God, to make God's kingdom visible in our world to people we meet day in and day out.

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-6:00pm

**Mass Intentions For the week of October 7 –14 , 2023**

Saturday	5:30pm	Margaret Hammer+
Oct 7		
Sunday	9:00am	In Memory of Tristen Brevik
Oct 8	11:00am	The Feducio Makasabit Death Anniversary
Monday	9:00am	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Mary Oguh
Oct 9		
Tuesday	7:00am	H&WB of Venus Matthews
Oct 10		
Wednesday	7:00am	H&WB Curtis Richards
Oct 11		
Thursday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
Oct 12		
Friday	7:00am	For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
Oct 13		
Saturday	8:30am	For the Repose of the Soul of Rogelio Gonzaga
Oct 14	5:30pm	Birthday of Amelia Samson


*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**

<p><b>Announcement</b></p> <p><b>Our Church now has an Adoration Room. All are invited to visit the room, Mon-Fri 7:30AM-6:00PM.</b></p> <p><b>To gain access to the adoration room, reservations are required. Please visit the rectory to reserve your date and time.</b></p>	<p><b>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</b></p>	
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*Good Shepherd Parish Religious Education Program for 2023-2024 has begun. If you wish for your child to attend the sessions, please complete the registration form found in the back of the church . If you have any questions, 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.



Collection Report		September 24 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 4,415.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 2,083.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$43,405.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$,303,406.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$3,060.0 0
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,440.00

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday Oct . 8	
Monday Oct 9	
Saints Denis & Companions, and John Leonardi 9:00AM Mass Columbus Day The Rectory will be closed	
Tuesday Oct 10	
Wednesday Oct 11	
Saint John XXIII	
Thursday Oct 12	
Friday Oct 13	
Saturday Oct 14	
Saint Callistus I	

**Minister Assignments Oct 14– Oct. 15, 2023**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
10/14 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
10/15 9:00am	Barbara Chikezie	Helen Chife-Aduke Alexandra Dunac Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
10/15 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Denise Perry 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

# Pope at Angelus: 'Listen to Jesus, everything else comes after' 17<sup>TH</sup> SUN [C] JULY 17, 2022

At his Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis turns to the Liturgy and uses it to explain why listening to the words of Jesus must always be our priority, as it guides us towards everything else.

## **By Francesca Merlo**

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis described the day's liturgy, which presents us with the story of Martha and Mary, two sisters offering hospitality to Jesus in their home. The Pope recounts that Martha welcomes the guests whilst Mary sits at Jesus' feet to listen to him until Martha turns to him and asks him to tell Mary to help her. Martha's complaint does not seem out of place; indeed, we feel we are agreeing with her, said the Pope. Yet Jesus answers her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her". Pope Francis noted that though it is a surprising answer, Jesus often overturns our way of thinking. "Let us ask ourselves then why the Lord, while appreciating Martha's generous care, says that Mary's attitude is to be preferred", said the Pope.

## **The order of priorities**

The Pope went on to note that Martha's "philosophy" seems to be duty first, pleasure second. "Hospitality is not made of fine words, but demands" that involve doing whatever it takes to make the guest feel welcome. "Jesus is well aware of this", said the Pope, and he "acknowledges Martha's effort" but he "wants to make her understand that there is a new order of priorities". Mary, the Pope said, has realized that there is a "better part" that must be given first place. "Everything else comes after", he added. The better thing, he specified, "is listening to Jesus' words".

## **First, listen:**

The word of Jesus is not abstract, it is a teaching that touches and shapes life, changes it, frees it from the dullness of evil, satisfies and infuses it with a joy that does not pass: it is the better part", explained the Pope, and it is for this reason that Mary prioritizes it. She stop and listens, and the rest will come later.

Pope Francis then went on to specify that this takes nothing away from the alue of practical commitment, which must flow from the word of Jesus and animated by his Spirit, "otherwise it is reduced to a fussing and fretting over many things, to a sterile activism".

## **Take advantage of your time:**

Bringing his discourse to a close, Pope Francis urged the faithful listening to "take advantage of this holiday season to stop and listen to Jesus". He explained that today it is always more difficult to find free moments to meditate and for this reason the summer period can be precious to open the Gospel and read it slowly, without haste. "Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by those pages, asking ourselves how our life is going, if it is in line with what Jesus says", and in particular, he added, "let us ask ourselves: when I start my day, do I throw myself headlong into the things to be done, or do I first seek inspiration in the Word of God"? Finally, the Pope prayed that the Virgin Mary "teach us to choose the best part, which will never be taken away from us".