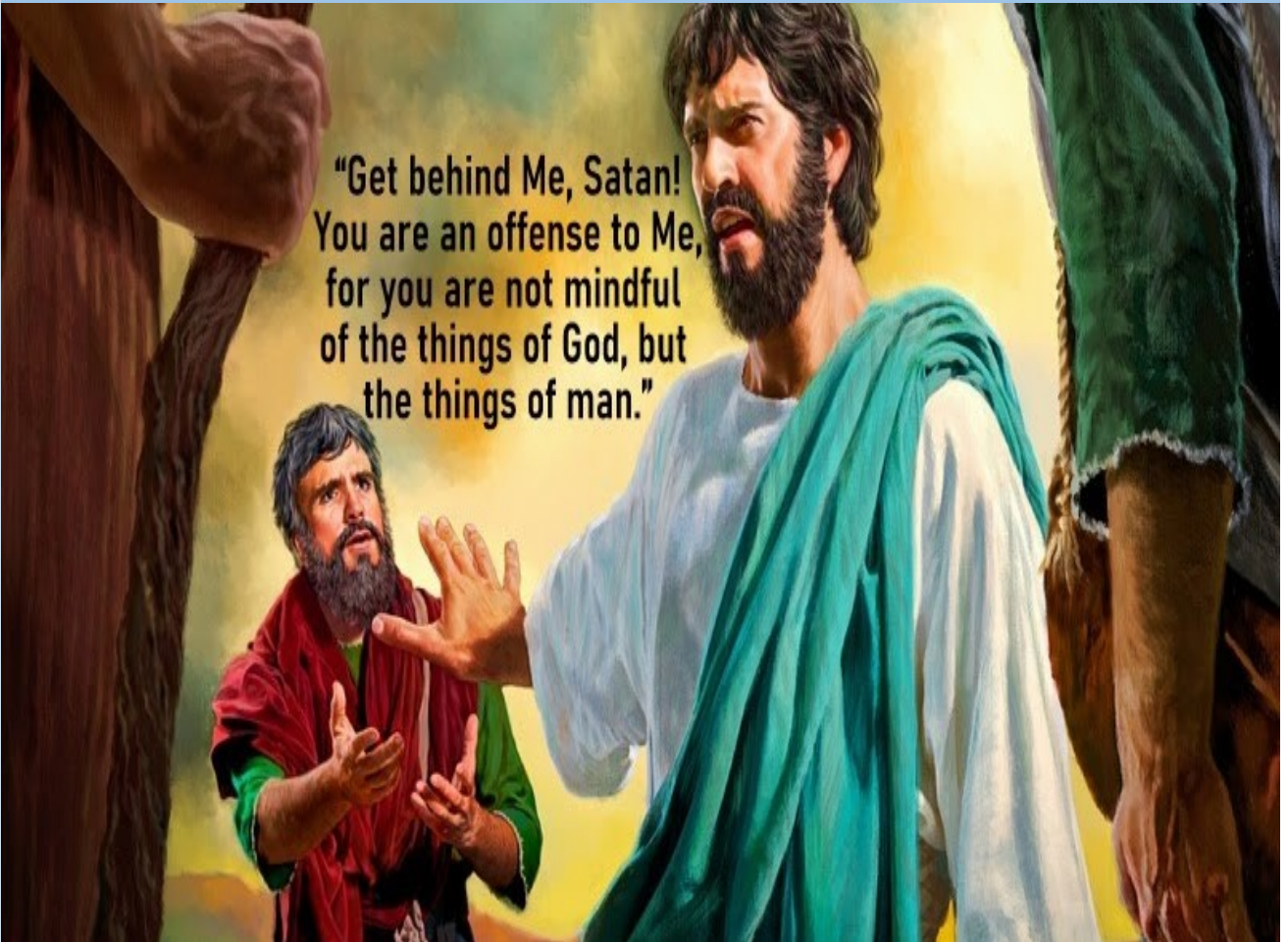




**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3, 2023**



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



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

A NOTE FROM FR. VALENTINE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

We live in a world, a consumerist world and society that glorifies winners. Our heroines are people who have accomplished great things; champions who make us proud and those who duped others to achieve their goals and objectives. We aspire to those who achieved in various fields of endeavor: sports, business, politics to name but a few. But then we also know that winning isn't everything. Winning can only take us so far, failure rather than success can play a vital role in forming the character of the person. It forces us to question our motives and at times there is more to be gained in losing than winning. When it comes to evaluating a human life, we can think that accomplishments are everything. But in truth, it is the power of our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ that matters and keeps Satan at bay.

Jeremiah in the first reading of this Sunday expected God to inflict punishments on Israel but God who is merciful did not listen to Jeremiah's request, Jeremiah felt betrayed which made him to say: "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped." I also sometimes, feel let down, overwhelmed, or just plain sad about my life or what is going on in this our world, gun violence, reckless killings and no respect for human life, wars, oppression, segregation, marginalization and hatred. What hope do we have other than to trust in this mystery? It's only when we live by faith not by sight that we can say to Satan: "get behind me" as our Lord Jesus Christ did.

Our Lord in the gospel of today, tells us by "picking up our cross," he strengthens us to live within faith's paradox, to embrace mystery, to trust in eternal truths. Because our past informs our present, we know that we have, we can and we will overcome hatred, prejudice, gun violence and even natural disasters because of faith's common denominator: we are all children of God on a journey into eternity. That is why, today's gospel reading speaks more and very clearly on attitude of self-arrogation, prestige, and power being first, but Jesus emphasized on and wants us to have the spirit of humility, service, discipleship mentality and self-sacrifice, lifting others up and not to be a stumbling block to others. We live the paradox of being in the world but not of the world. Our Lord tells us that our very lives depend on how we choose. Is it really an either/ or situation? Or is it, rather, a both/and? Either we follow God or be of the world. Following God will fill us with feeling of peace and our sense of hope expands and our heart more of generosity. So how can we follow God and be of the world? But St. Paul advised us not to conform ourselves to this world, if we really want eternal life and salvation.



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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 4:30-5:00pm

National Holidays —9:00am

Mass Intentions For the week of September 2—September 9, 2023

Saturday 5:30pm 5:30pm For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families

Sept 2

Sunday 9:00am In Memory of Tristen Brevik

Sept 3 11:00am Thanksgiving to God's Tender Mercies & Favors received.

Monday 7:00am Harry Desrouleaux +

Sept 4

Tuesday 7:00am Thanksgiving for the Wedding of Kirk and Kemjika Petgrave

Sept 5

Wednesday 7:00am Memorial Mass for Vely

Sept 6

Thursday 7:00am Lorretta Gibbs, For God's help for her to return to the faith

Sept 7

Friday 7:00am Loretta Gibbs, For God's guidance to return to the faith

Sept 8

Saturday 8:30am Thanksgiving for The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sept 9 5:30pm In Memory of Addolorata DiCarlo

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

Angela Freeman	Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson	Frank Rocchi
Elizabeth Cassata	Emily Lugo	Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Pope Francis	
Frederick Hamilton	Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	Josephine DiPietro	
Tom O and Janice C	Jean Michelin	Corizon Abuzied	Venus Matthews	

* 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

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



*Good Shepherd Parish Religious Education Program for 2023-2024 will be starting **Sunday, September 17, 2023**. 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*

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

If you have any questions, please call the rectory at 973-375-8568.

Collection Report		August 27, 2023
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 4,035.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ (2,465.00)
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$35,615.00
Surplus (Deficit)		(\$311,196.00)
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$3,609.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		(\$2,891.00)

Minister Assignments Sept 9– Sept 10, 2023

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presider
9/9 5:30pm	Doris Omoighe	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
9/10 9:00am	Mariyln Amah	Alexandra Dunac Stanislaus Egeolu-Obimezie Helen Chife-Akude	Fr. Val
9/10 11:00am	Janice Camacho	Denise Perry Janice Camacho Mina Yago	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Sept 3
Monday Sept 4
Tuesday Sept 5
Wednesday Sept 6
Thursday Sept 7
Friday Sept 8
Saturday Sept 9
11:00AM meeting with all Confirmation Candidates with Fr. Valentine in the Rectory

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 4:30- 5:00 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 for at least 6 months. 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 at least one year prior to the chosen date and before they make any other arrangements 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

Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com , Email : gsirvington@comcast.net



Christians called to heal 'epidemic of enmity,' papal message says

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Pope Francis is shown at a 2022 audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Father Luigi Giussani, founder of the Communion and Liberation movement. (CNS/Vatican Media)

CINDY WOODEN

Vatican City — August 18, 2023

In a world suffering from an "epidemic of enmity," Christians can offer healing by recognizing each person as a child of God and reaching out in friendship, said a top Vatican official, writing on behalf of Pope Francis.

The pope's hope for the Meeting in Rimini, an annual event sponsored by the Communion and Liberation movement, is that each participant would learn more about "approaching others in the way of Jesus, who always stretches out his hand, always seeks to lift up, to act so that people heal, are happy and encounter God," said the message signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

The Vatican released the message Aug. 18, two days before the Aug. 20-25 event in Rimini, Italy. Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly university students, participate in the meeting, which offers Mass, conferences and workshops, concerts and theatrical performances.

The theme for the 2023 gathering is "Human Existence is an Inexhaustible Friendship," a quote from Communion and Liberation founder Father Luigi Giussani about how faith in Jesus, who called his followers "friends," dissolves solitude and empowers friendship with others.

Parolin told organizers that the theme is "bold because it clearly runs countercurrent at a time marked by individualism and indifference."

"War and divisions are sowing rancor and fear in people's hearts, and those who are different from me are often perceived as rivals," the cardinal wrote. "Communication, which is global and pervasive, turns this widespread attitude into a mentality in which differences seem to be symptoms of hostility and one sees a kind of epidemic of enmity."

Quoting Pope Francis, the cardinal said the answer is found in faith and in believing God "sends us his son, he gives him to us, he hands him over, he shares him so that we can learn the way of fraternity, of self-giving. In a definitive way, he opens a new horizon; he is a new word which sheds light on so many situations of exclusion, disintegration, loneliness and isolation. He is a word which breaks the silence of loneliness."

"An attitude of openness to others as brothers or sisters is one of the distinctive traits of the pontificate of Pope Francis, of his witness and his magisterium," Parolin said.

In a world where tensions and divisions seem to be increasing, he said, "speeches are not enough."

Quoting Pope Francis again, he told participants that "we need concrete gestures and shared choices aimed at building a culture of peace where each one of us lives, reconciling with family members, friends and neighbors, praying for those who hurt us, recognizing and helping those in need, speaking words of peace at school, university or in society, 'anointing' with closeness those who feel alone."