



*2nd SUNDAY Of EASTER*

*DIVINE MERCY*

*APRIL 12,2026*



**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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**SERVED BY**  
 Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor  
 Denise Perry Secretary  
 Christian Veliz Music Minister

For more information on our parish please go to:  
[Goodshepherdnj.com](http://Goodshepherdnj.com)  
 Or email us at  
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**PASTOR'S REFLECTION. 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL.**

*We have celebrated the solemnity of the Risen Lord last Sunday and today we celebrate the Divine Mercy of God- the "Mysterion" what was fascinating and at the same time fearful, our Lord risen from the dead. In today's Gospel we meet Doubting Thomas. Each of us has something in common with him, he is our Patron Saint, of who doubts. for at times our minds are darkened by doubt. One thing is commendable of Thomas, he does not want to believe in any Jesus of super star, he could be a wonder worker, a super star that has his wardrobe in Hollywood. Thomas wants to see Jesus of Super Sky, the one who has pierced the heaven and rose from the dead. That's commendable of him. But we have forgotten that it was Thomas who said to other apostles of going to Bethany, where the Jews wanted to kill him, and Thomas said let us go and die with him.*

*Despite his lack of faith, we should be grateful to Thomas, because he was not content to hear from others that Jesus was alive, or merely to see him in the flesh. He wanted to see inside, to touch with his hand the Lord's wounds, the signs of his love. He wanted to see the marks of the nails and his side the Soldier opened with a lance, which made blood and water to gush out. Truly, Thomas is our twin brother. No, we too need to "see God", to touch him with our hands and to know that he is risen for us.*

*After his resurrection, Jesus continues to appear to his friends and followers. Through appearing to the men and women who were his friends and followers, he encourages and strengthens them; he calms their fears. When he appears to them, he says, **Peace be with you, do not be afraid.** Thomas is not with them when Jesus appears. The others tell him that Jesus had appeared to them and spoke to them. But he does not believe and he is not convinced and so 'Doubting Thomas' is born.' I think we have to be careful about over criticizing Thomas for his apparent lack of faith. Perhaps we should admire and applaud him for his honesty and conviction. He is honest with himself and others. He desperately wants to meet and experience the risen Jesus for himself.*

*When we look at the post-resurrection, it is not the only Thomas who doubted that Jesus had risen. Mary Magdalene couldn't recognize him, she called him the gardener and when she ran and told the others that she had met the Risen Lord, none of them believed her. In fact, most if not all the followers of Jesus doubted.*

*When Jesus does appear again, he asks Thomas to touch and put his finger into his wounds. Then he can have the proof he needs to believe. But the gospel doesn't say that Thomas did this. Instead, it tells us that he cried out loudly, 'My Lord and my God.' This is the prayer of someone who believes, not someone who doubts.*

*None of us go through life without struggles and doubts. There are times when we are at our weakest, whether physically, emotionally our spirituality. Difficult as it can be, we have to believe and trust that Jesus is with us just as was with Thomas, as Jesus showed his mercy and love to Thomas. Jesus is always with us, especially when we feel we are most alone and doubting. When we are struggling to believe, it can help to realize that we are not in control and neither are we on our own. It can be a time of growth for us as we reach out and ask God to help us with our doubts and whatever we are struggling with.*

*When have these doubts, may we have the faith and courage of Thomas. Like him, may we struggle to say with courage and conviction, **"My Lord and my God" and "Jesus I trust and believe in You."***

**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 Apr 11—Apr 18,2026**

Saturday	5:00PM	For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley
Apr 11		
Sunday	9:00am	For the Protection of the Babies in the Womb and Their Families
Apr 12	11:00am	Thanksgiving for God's Mercies and Favors
Monday	7:00am	Thanksgiving for the Wedding of Chukwuemeka and Shen Oguh
Apr 13		
Tuesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Edward Beihl
Apr 14		
Wednesday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Avenelle Samaroo
Apr 15		
Thursday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Graylin Banks
Apr 16		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Sou of Alfred Tatyrek
Apr 17		
Saturday	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Shelley King-Kamara
Apr 18	5:30pm	For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Cassata

*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

Paul Kocum	Sandi Mosley	Debbie Watson	Rihanna Scott	Venus Matthews
Curtis Richards	Carlos Quinones	John Valfour	Corizon Abuzied	Margarete Victor
Bob and Barbara Nezlick	Patrick Roylance	Graylan Banks	Aloysius Patrick Osuji	Avenelle Samaroo

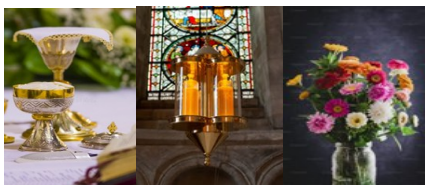
\* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

**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**

*We will be getting new Missal/Hymnal books on the week of November 30th First Week of Advent)*  
*Please, take this opportunity to honor a loved one (living or deceased) or commemorate a special event, like the birth of a child, anniversary, etc.,*

**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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Contact Fr. Valentine or call the office, if you are interested in requesting mass intentions, intentions of a Sanctuary Lamp, Chapel Lamp, Altar Bread, or Altar Flowers.**



**ANNIVERSARY LITURGY FOR COUPLES:**  
**Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.**  
 Cardinal Tobin, will be celebrating one mass for all married couples.  
 Please use the QR Code to register.



**Collection Report HOLY WEEK** Apr 5,, 2026

Weekly Target	\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)	\$ 5,288.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,234.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>	
Budget:	\$379,864.00
Actual:	\$ 70.067.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$309,797.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages	
Average Collection:	\$2,235.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,265.00

**Minister Assignments Apr 11—Apr 12**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
4/18 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
4/19 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyegbule	Fr. Val
4/19 11: 00am	Jude Ogbo	Jacqueline Ozouh Jerome Hule Anthonia Ogbo	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday April 12
SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
Monday April 13
Saint Martin 1
Tuesday April 14
Wednesday April 15
TAX DAY
Thursday April 16
Friday April 17
Saturday April 18

**Good Shepherd Parish Information**

RECTORY HOURS: Monday Thru Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM

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 4:45PM - 5:15PM

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 Baptisms will be held the third Sunday of the month. 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. Children’s mass will be every second Sunday of the month, at the 11AM mass.

## HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia  
Second Sunday of Easter, 19 April 2020

Last Sunday we celebrated the Lord's resurrection; today we witness the resurrection of his disciple. It has already been a week, a week since the disciples had seen the Risen Lord, but in spite of this, they remained fearful, cringing behind "closed doors" (*Jn 20:26*), unable even to convince Thomas, the only one absent, of the resurrection. What does Jesus do in the face of this timorous lack of belief? He returns and, standing in the same place, "in the midst" of the disciples, he repeats his greeting: "Peace be with you!" (*Jn 20:19, 26*). He starts all over. The resurrection of his disciple begins here, from this *faithful and patient mercy*, from the discovery that God never tires of reaching out to lift us up when we fall....

You may object: "But I keep falling!". The Lord knows this and he is always ready to raise you up. He does not want us to keep thinking about our failings; rather, he wants us to look to him. For when we fall, he sees children needing to be put back on their feet; in our failings he sees children in need of his merciful love. Today, in this church that has become a shrine of mercy in Rome, and on this Sunday that Saint John Paul II dedicated to Divine Mercy twenty years ago, we confidently welcome this message. Jesus said to Saint Faustina: "I am love and mercy itself; there is no human misery that could measure up to my mercy" (*Diary*, 14 September 1937). At one time, the Saint, with satisfaction, told Jesus that she had offered him all of her life and all that she had. But Jesus' answer stunned her: "You have not offered me the thing is truly yours". What had that holy nun kept for herself? Jesus said to her with kindness: "My daughter, give me your failings" (10 October 1937). We too can ask ourselves: "Have I given my failings to the Lord? Have I let him see me fall so that he can raise me up?..." The Lord waits for us to offer him our failings so that he can help us experience his mercy.

Let us go back to the disciples. They had abandoned the Lord at his Passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus' love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him. In those wounds, he touches with his hands God's tender closeness. Thomas arrived late, but once he received mercy, he overtook the other disciples: he believed not only in the resurrection, but in the boundless love of God. And he makes the most simple and beautiful profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). Here is the resurrection of the disciple: it is accomplished when his frail and wounded humanity enters into that of Jesus. There, every doubt is resolved; there, God becomes *my God*; there, we begin to accept ourselves and to love life as it is.

Dear brothers and sisters, in the time of trial that we are presently undergoing, we too, like Thomas, with our fears and our doubts, have experienced our frailty. We need the Lord, who sees beyond that frailty an irrepressible beauty. With him we rediscover how precious we are even in our vulnerability. We discover that we are like beautiful crystals, fragile and at the same time precious. And if, like crystal, we are transparent before him, his light – the light of mercy – will shine in us and through us in the world. As the Letter of Peter said, this is a reason for being "filled with joy, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials" (*1 Pt 1:6*). On this feast of Divine Mercy, the most beautiful message comes from Thomas, the disciple who arrived late; he was the only one missing. But the Lord waited for Thomas. Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind. Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of *selfish indifference*. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress ... We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family! Let us learn from the early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. It received mercy and lived with mercy: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (*Acts 2:44-45*). This is not some ideology: it is Christianity... Today the simple and disarming love of Jesus revives the heart of his disciple. Like the apostle Thomas, let us accept mercy, the salvation of the world. And let us show mercy to those who are most vulnerable; for only in this way will we build a new world.