



3rd Sunday Of EASTER

APRIL 19 , 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
 Or email us at
 gsirvington@comcast.net

PASTOR'S REFLECTION ON 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 19, 2026.

One may ask today, from hiding, fear of the Jewish authorities, and fear of persecution and suddenly the Apostles are speaking boldly without fear or hindrance. What brought about this change in their lives and ministry? Last Sunday in John's Gospel 20:19-22, Jesus appeared to them and stood in their midst and said to them "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*" And when he said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.*" This is the power, the Spirit of Jesus animated, fortified and removed the fear in them, and gave them life in the Spirit, the power to go and proclaim the Gospel and to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The truth, spoken boldly as Peter with the Eleven raised their voice and proclaimed "You who are Jews,..." can be a death sentence during that time, and in some cultures today. As in Jesus' time, stories abound of journalists disappearing as we have seen recently the lady journalist kidnapped in Iran. We see journalists being put to death, poisoned, heads of states are assassinated while giving speeches, and challengers to the status quo missing and are never seen again, in repressive countries as some of us have witnessed and heard in different countries we came from to this country. The tactics may have changed since gospel times, but the intent remain the same. What is it about human beings especially that makes those in leadership crave for power?

Lord Acton wrote in 1887, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The news is full of despots and dictators who put themselves and their interests ahead of other people. This was exactly what we saw with the Jewish authorities who tried to stop the movement and those of "the Way." Instead of the authorities to serve the people, they were there for their own interests, to stop people from following the "New Way" so that they would be in control as they have been. But our Lord have given the Apotles the "Energy" the Spirit to proclaim the Gospel without any fear. They have been liberated from their fear. Our Lord has offered and given them and us a model of the joy and completeness to be found when we align ourselves with God's will and light rather than the doubt and isolation we encounter when we cling to our independence and suffer in darkness.

Jesus' resurrection means chances to cast our nets again and again and try to be better the next time with God's light. When we surrender our human pride to Jesus' forgiveness and glory, we are met with the face of a brother or sister who will not let us go hungry or suffer alone, but rather as a Good Shepherd, he will lead us to the eternal light of life.

Even though it is easy for us to blame the Pharisees, the Scribes and the Jewish authorities or the leaders of the world of today, and consider them separate from ourselves, but we ask ourselves; are there elements of power and control that we try to exercise in our personal sphere of influence? Do we participate in gossip or character assassination? Our Lord does not advocate fighting with violence. He refused to use the tactics of the oppressor and instead continues to go about his mission of love and healing, curing the sick. We must trust that the Spirit and justice will be victorious and in his name we all can have hope and we are his witnesses.

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 18, - Apr 25, 2026

Saturday Apr 18	5:00PM	In Celebration of the Birthday of Amarachi Idebu Birthday
Sunday Apr 19	9:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Tristen Brevik
	11:00am	God's Protection of and Love Denise Perry
Monday Apr 20	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Ruth Samaroo
Tuesday Apr 21	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Madonna Calander
Wednesday Apr 22	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Martha Anuforo
Thursday Apr 23	7:00am	Thanksgiving Mass for God's Love and Protection of Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya
Friday Apr 24	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley
Saturday Apr 25	8:30am	For God's Guidance and protection of Venus Matthews
	5:30pm	For the 64th Wedding Anniversary of Nellie and Leopaldo Bate

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

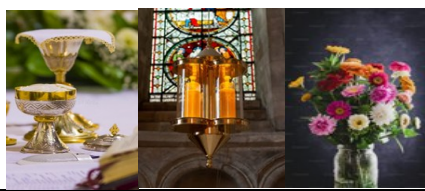
* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

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		Apr 12, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,944.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,556.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 72,011.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$307,853.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,103.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,397.00

Minister Assignments Apr 11—Apr 12

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
3/25 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
3/26 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Denise Perry	Fr. Val
3/26 11: 00am	Dorothy Nwanonyiri	Victoria Asoluka Bernadine Osuji Pedro Burbano	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday April 19
3rd Sunday of Easter
Monday April 20
Tuesday April 21
Saint Anselm
Wednesday April 22
Earth Day
Thursday April 23
Saint George and Saint Adalbert
Friday April 24
Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen
Saturday April 25
Saint Mark Evangelist

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.

EASTER SUNDAY “RESURRECTION OF THE LORD”
HOLY MASS DURING THE DAY

PAPAL MASS

HOMILY OF POPE LEO XIV

*St Peter's Square
Easter Sunday, 5 April 2026*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today all of creation is resplendent with new light, a song of praise rises from the earth, and our hearts rejoice: Christ is risen from the dead, and with him, we too rise to new life!

This Easter proclamation embraces the mystery of our lives and the destiny of history, reaching us even in the depths of death, where we feel threatened and sometimes overwhelmed. It opens us up to a hope that never fails, to a light that never fades, to a fullness of joy that nothing can take away: death has been conquered forever; death no longer has power over us!

This is a message that is not always easy to accept, a promise that we struggle to embrace, because the power of death constantly threatens us, both from within and without. From within, this power threatens us when the weight of our sins prevents us from “spreading our wings” and taking flight, or when the disappointments or loneliness we experience drain our hope. It likewise looms over us when our worries or our resentments suffocate the joy of living, when we are sad or tired, or when we feel betrayed or rejected. When we have to come to terms with our weakness, with the sufferings and the daily grind of life, we can feel as if we have ended up in a tunnel with no end in sight.

From without, death is always lurking. We see it present in injustices, in partisan selfishness, in the oppression of the poor, in the lack of attention given to the most vulnerable. We see it in violence, in the wounds of the world, in the cry of pain that rises from every corner because of the abuses that crush the weakest among us, because of the idolatry of profit that plunders the earth’s resources, because of the violence of war that kills and destroys.

In this reality, the Passover of the Lord invites us to lift our gaze and open our hearts. It continues to nourish the seed of the promised victory within our spirit and throughout the course of history. It sets us in motion, like Mary Magdalene and the Apostles, so that we may discover that Jesus’ tomb is empty, and therefore in every death we experience there is also room for new life to arise. The Lord is alive and remains with us. Through the cracks of resurrection that open up in the darkness, he entrusts our hearts to the hope that sustains us: the power of death is not the final destiny of our lives. We are all directed, once and for all, on the path to fulfilment, because in Christ we also have risen.

With heartfelt words, [Pope Francis](#) reminded us of this in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *[Evangelii Gaudium](#)*, affirming that the resurrection of Christ “is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit” ([n. 276](#)).

Brothers and sisters, Easter gives us this hope, as we remember that in the risen Christ a new creation is possible every day. This is what today’s Gospel tells us, as it clearly describes the event of the resurrection as taking place on “the first day of the week” (Jn 20:1). The day of Christ’s resurrection thus takes us back to that first day when God created the world, and at the same time proclaims that a new life, stronger than death, is now dawning for humanity.

Easter is the new creation brought about by the Risen Lord; it is a new beginning; it is life finally made eternal by God’s victory over the ancient enemy. We need this song of hope today. It is ourselves, risen with Christ, who must bring him into the streets of the world. Let us then run like Mary Madgalene, announcing him to everyone, living out the joy of the resurrection, so that wherever the specter of death still lingers, the light of life may shine.

May Christ, our Passover, bless us and give his peace to the whole world!