



**4th Sunday Of EASTER**

**APRIL 26, 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  
[gsirvington@comcast.net](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)

**PASTOR’S REFLECTION ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 26’26**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter has been traditionally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday” our patron and parish name. It is also the Sunday of Prayer for Vocations. Here in the Archdiocese of Newark, it is a Vocation Sunday, known as “Called by My Name.” which you all got the fliers put in the parish bulletin last Sunday. Every year the Gospel reading of the Fourth Sunday of Easter is on the theme of the Good Shepherd and is taken from the Gospel of John Chapter 10. In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus tells us who he is and calls us by name. The most important thing we need to know is who is taking care of us and whose voice we need to listen to- a voice which is authentic and truthful, as we are hearing a lot of voices in this modern time. You, as a young man, Jesus the Good shepherd is calling you by name, are you listening to his call as his follower and a young man to feed his lamb and tend his sheep? Our Lord Jesus is calling you by name to come and be a shepherd in his Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Newark.

According to this reading, if we are his sheep, we’re known to him by our names. Jesus says, “My Sheep hear my voice” but hearing Jesus’ voice is very difficult in the current environment of our lives with so many other voices calling out to us in this modern times. Each day there are hundreds of voices, wanting our attention. These voices offer us all types of perks, in the name of security, freedom, health, comfort, happiness, self-satisfaction, personal aggrandizement among many other things. They offer us formulas for solving problems, fixing relationships or marriages, raising children, becoming rich, becoming popular or celebrities - the list goes on. So, it is surprising how much of the quality of our lives is affected by the voices we tune into and choose to follow. And these voices don’t call us by Name, they lead us astray.

Many a time, our lives are in turmoil and in disarray because of following the wrong voices, wrong persons or wrong ideologies and wrong choices. These days there are many who claim to echo the voice of Jesus, we hear them and see them on televisions but they are thieves and brigands. They come not to care for us, but to enrich themselves. These are thieves and robbers, who steal and build executive mansions and buying jets for themselves. Christ is one and His way is one and true. If the way does not lead to Christ, it leads away from Him. We need to be conscious to identify the voice of Christ. Today’s Gospel gives us an image of Jesus as someone who hopes that people will recognize his voice as the one who addresses their issues. A voice that will find people where they are, attend them authentically, without disguise and without pretense.

Thus, like the two men who break away at last from our compiling posture at the empty tomb. However, the two were traveling toward or back to Emmaus, not much has changed. We are like these two young men traveling. As we know many of us ploy through life or seasons when religious questions and obligations pale in comparison with the challenges of living. Young people growing up or teenagers today, may find church-going pointless and dull or not getting anything out of it. Young parents may well prefer some extra sleep to praying with the parish community. Newly minted adults might view of pursuing ones or their dreams more practical than investment in the Unseen. Parents today who are now practicing family planning and not having more children, don’t encourage their children to enter religious life or priesthood. When things go particularly well with us, God may seem unneeded. When things go badly, God can seem unresponsive.

For plenty more reasons, the road back to Emmaus often seems like the most reasonable option in our busy, complicated lives. We need to hear and listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd as he Calls You by Name to follow him so that you “might have life and have it more abundantly.” Are you willing to listen attentively and hear the Good Shepherd Calling You by Name?

**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 25, - May 2, 2026

Saturday 5:00PM For the 64th Wedding Anniversary of Nellie and Leopaldo Bate  
Apr 25

Sunday 9:00am For The Repose of The Soul of Paul Borg  
Apr 26 11:00am For God's Strength of Health and Grace for Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya

Monday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Corinne Beihl  
Apr 27

Tuesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Janeene Butler  
Apr 28

Wednesday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Anna Hinton  
Apr 29

Thursday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Angelina N. Ugwuanya  
Apr 30

Friday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Milton Hinton  
May 01

Saturday 8:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Cassata  
May 02 5:30pm For God's Guidance and Protection of Graylin Banks

*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 Nezlck	Patrick Roylance	Graylan Banks	Aloysius Patrick Osuji	Avenelle Samaroo

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

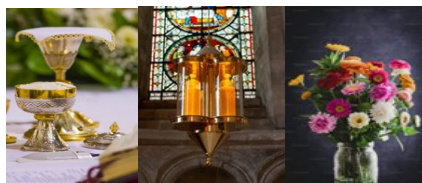
Hospital Privacy | Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/ pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the I office at (973)375-8568

**Today Is Called by Name Sunday!**

Cardinal Tobin is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-35) who exhibit a love of God and neighbor, and who may be open to learning more about the priesthood. To submit names, please visit [newarkpriest.com](http://newarkpriest.com). The men whose names you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Cardinal Tobin, invitations to discernment events, and support from our Vocation Team.

**Thank you for supporting vocations!**

**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 19, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,306,00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 5,194.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 73,317.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$306,547.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,134.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,366.00

**Minister Assignments May 02 –May 03, 2026**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
5/02 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
05/03 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
05/03 11: 00am	Sylvia Edozie	Jacqueline Ozuoh Pedro Bubano Anthonia Ogbo	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday April 26
4th Sunday of Easter
Monday April 27
Tuesday April 28
Saint Peter Channel and Saint Louis Grignon
Wednesday April 29
Saint Catherine of Siena
Thursday April 30
Saint Pius V
Friday May 01
Saint Joseph the Worker
Saturday May 02
Saint Athanasius

**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 LEO XIV**

*Esplanade of Saurimo (Saurimo) Angola.*

*Monday, 20 April 2026*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In every part of the world, the Church lives as a people who walk as disciples of Christ, our brother and Redeemer. He, the Risen One, illumines for us the path to the Father and with the strength of the Spirit he sanctifies us so that we may transform our way of life in conformity with his love. This is the Good News, the Gospel that courses through our veins like blood, sustaining us on the journey. A journey that has brought me here with you today! In the joy and beauty of our gathering, united in the name of Jesus, let us listen with open hearts to the Word of salvation for it helps us reflect on the motive and purpose for which we follow the Lord.

Indeed, when the Son of God became man, he performed striking miracles in order to manifest the will of the Father: he made light shine in the darkness by giving sight to the blind, he gave a voice to the oppressed by loosening the tongues of the mute, he slaked our thirst for justice by multiplying bread for the poor and weak. Anyone who heard about these works set out in search of Jesus. At the same time, the Lord looks into our heart and asks us whether we seek him out of gratitude or for our own self-interest, with calculation or with love. In fact, he said to those who were following him: “You are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves” (Jn 6:26). His words reveal the designs of those who do not want to encounter a person, but want to consume things. The crowd sees Jesus as means to an end, a provider of services. If he had not given them something to eat, his actions and teachings would not have interested them.

This happens when genuine faith is replaced with superstitious practices, in which God becomes an idol that is sought only when it is advantageous to us and only for as long as it is. Even the most beautiful gifts of the Lord, which are always for the care of his people, become a pretext, a prize or a bargaining chip, and are misinterpreted by those who receive them. The Gospel account, then, helps us to understand that there are erroneous motives for seeking Christ, particularly when he is considered to be a guru or a good luck charm. Even the motivation of the crowd is inadequate: they were not seeking a teacher whom they love, but a leader to applaud for their own advantage.

How different is Jesus’ attitude toward us. Yet, he does not reject this insincere search, but encourages its conversion. He does not dismiss the crowd, but invites everyone to examine what stirs in our hearts. Christ calls us to freedom: he does not want servants or clients, rather he seeks brothers and sisters to whom he can totally dedicate himself. To respond with faith to this love, it is not enough to hear Jesus speak: one must accept the meaning of his words. Neither is it enough to see what Jesus does: one must follow and imitate him. When in the sign of shared bread we see the will of the Savior, who gives himself for us, only then do we draw closer to a true encounter with Jesus, which become discipleship, mission and service.

The admonition that the Lord directs to the crowd is thus transformed into an invitation: “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life” (Jn 6:27). With these words, Christ expresses his true gift to us: he does not call us to be disinterested in our daily bread, which he multiplies in abundance and teaches us to ask for in prayer. On the contrary, he teaches us the correct way to search for the bread of life, food which sustains us forever. The desire of the crowd receives a much greater and more surprising response: Jesus does not give us food that passes away, but bread that lasts because it is the food of eternal life.

His gift sheds light on our current situation. We can see today how the hope of many people is frustrated by violence, exploited by the overbearing and defrauded by the rich. Consequently, when injustice corrupts hearts, the bread of all becomes the possession of a few. In the face of these evils, Christ hears the cry of the people and renews our history by lifting us up from every fall, comforting us in every suffering and encouraging us in our mission. Just as the Eucharist is the living bread that he never ceases to give us, so too his history knows no end. For this reason, the risen One opens up our lives through the power of his Spirit and removes the end of our history, that is death. Christ lives! He is our Redeemer. This is the Gospel that we share, making all the people of the earth our brothers and sisters. This is the proclamation that transforms sin into forgiveness. This is the faith that saves life! (continued on insert)