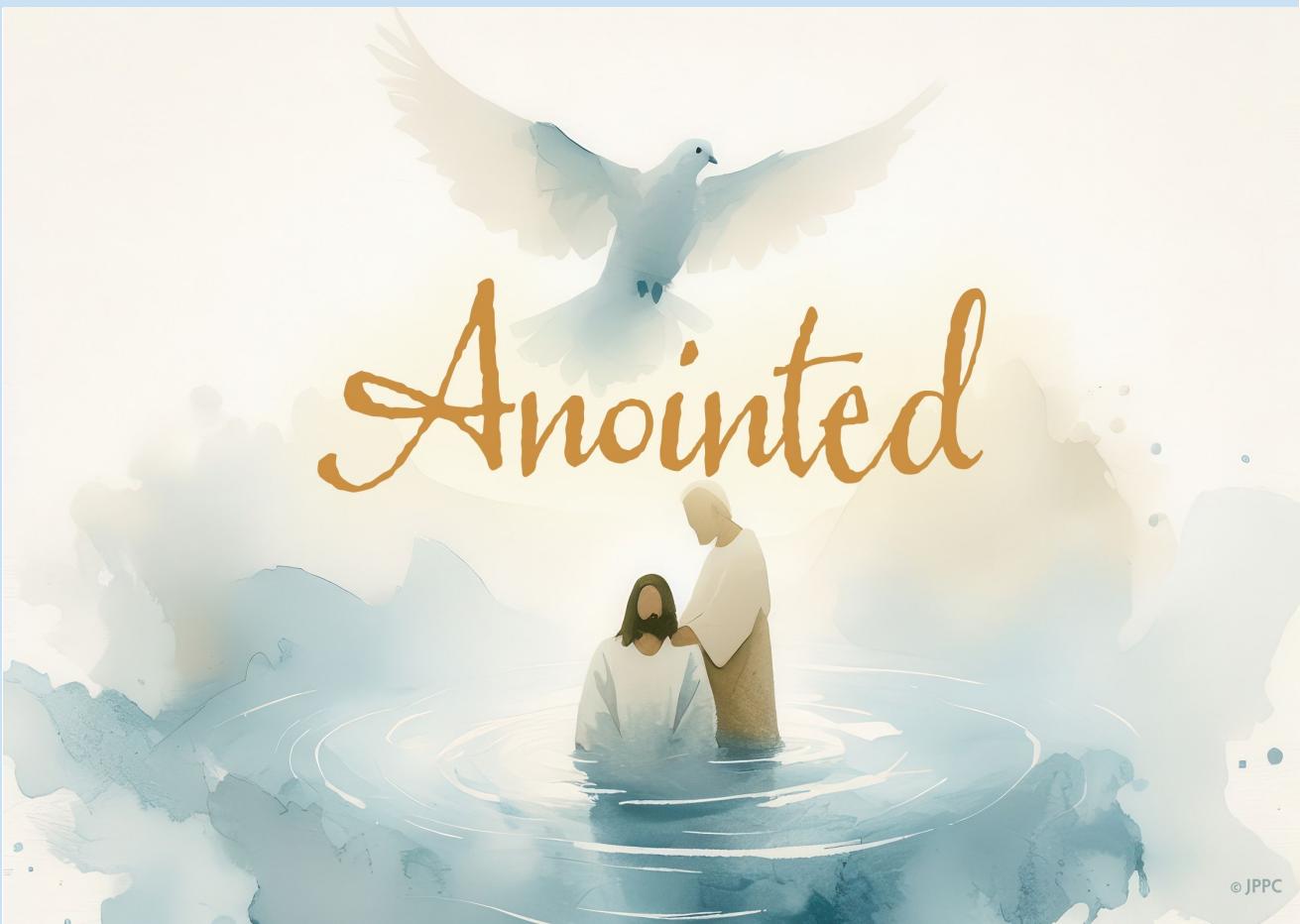


GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11, 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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Website: www.goodshepherdnj.com



SERVED BY
Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor
Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish
please go to:
Goodshepherdnj.com
Or email us at
gsirvington@comcast.net

From the Pastor's Desk on the solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord. Jan 11, 2026.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. This solemnity, the baptism of our Lord recalls the history of the Lord's own baptism and reminds us of the importance of the sacrament of baptism in our lives as Christians. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God

The first reading today is a message of hope and consolation to all God's people. Christ, the anointed one of God, "whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased... he shall bring forth justice to the nations." is with us to bring us healing. Most importantly, He will open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement... those who live in darkness."

Isaiah puts it this way: "a bruised reed he shall not break...until he establishes justice on the earth. This is exactly the ministry that Christ was anointed and empowered for by the Holy Spirit that rested on him like a dove during his baptism. In our second reading, from Acts of the Apostles states that "God shows no partiality." That everyone is equal in the sight of God, for He created us out of love and has no favorite, despite your wealth, status or religion. What God wants is for us to be saved and come to experience and come to have knowledge of the truth.

The gospel reading of today speaks about baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. During this baptism, God anointed Christ with the Holy Spirit and empowered him for his mission of bringing healing and peace to all nations. It was necessary for Christ to be baptized in order to underscore the importance of the sacrament of baptism as the foundation for all other sacraments. Through this Baptism, Christ manifested his full humanity, yet, without undermining his divinity. His baptism was a sign of solidarity with us whom he came save. It was a sign that he himself was ready to go through any ordeal in order to guarantee our salvation. Most importantly, through his baptism Christ initiated our redemptive process, which he will finally seal with his blood on the cross.

On this day therefore, it is very important for us to reflect on our own baptism. We need to reflect especially on how well we have observed and kept our baptismal vows. How faithful have we been to God in terms of keeping these promises. While we reflect on Christ's baptism and ours today, let us ask God to renew his spirit in us as we continue our walk with Christ this year for our salvation.

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 Jan 10—Jan 17, 2026

Saturday 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Luis Sanchez Esq

Jan 10

Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Edward Montpleaise

Jan 11 11:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Corinne Beihl

Monday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Sebastian Wilson

Jan 12

Tuesday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Cassata

Jan 13

Wednesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Avenelle Samaroo

Jan 14

Thursday 7:00am For God's Guidance and protection of Graylin Banks

Jan 15

Friday 7:00am For the repose of the Soul of Catherine Perry

Jan 16

Saturday 8:30am For God's Guidance and Protection of Emilye Chapman

Jan 17 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Agnes Marshall

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 Virginia Lee

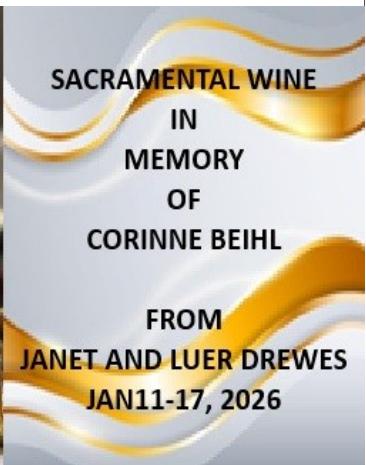
* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

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 office at (973)375-8568

Ministries: If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please call the rectory at 973-375-8568 or fill out the Information below and place in the collection basket.

Name : _____

Telephone #: _____



Collection Report	Jan 04, 2026
Weekly Target	\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)	\$2,543.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,957.00
Fiscal Year to Date	
Budget:	\$379,864.00
Actual:	\$ 55,188.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$324,676.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages	
Average Collection:	\$2,031.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,469.00

Minister Assignments Jan17– Jan18, 2026

Saturday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
1/17 5:30pm	Al Papp	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Nelie Bate	Fr, Augustine
1/18 9:00AM	Paulette Anderson- Spence	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyebuke	Fr, Augustine
1/18 11: 00am	Jude Ogbo	Pedro Burbano Bernardine Osuji Anthonia Ogbo	Fr. Augustine

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Jan 11

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday Jan 12

Tuesday Jan 13

Saint Hilary

Wednesday Jan 14

Thursday Jan 15

Friday Jan 16

Saturday Jan 17

Saint Anthony

Undecorating the church 10AM

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.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
MASS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
Sunday, 13 January 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The joy that flowed from the celebration of holy Christmas is fulfilled today in the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. A further reason for jubilation comes to us who are gathered here: indeed, in the sacrament of Baptism that I shall shortly administer to these newborn babies is expressed the living and active presence of the Holy Spirit who, enriching the Church with new children, vitalizes and develops her, and we cannot but rejoice in this.

I would like to address a special greeting to you, dear parents and godparents who are witnessing to your faith today by asking for baptism for these children, so that they may be born to new life in Christ and become part of the community of believers.

The Gospel account of the baptism of Jesus which we heard in St Luke's version shows the life of meekness and humility that the Son of God chose freely, complying with the Father's plan to be obedient to his desire for love for man in all things, even to his sacrifice on the cross.

Having reached adulthood, Jesus began his public ministry by going to the River Jordan to receive from John a baptism of penance and conversion.

What might seem paradoxical in our eyes actually happened. Did Jesus need penance and conversion? Of course not. Yet the One who is without sin put himself among sinners to have himself baptized, to make this act of penance. The Holy One of God joined those who recognized they were in need of forgiveness and asked God for the gift of conversion, that is, the grace to return to him with their whole heart, to belong totally to him. Jesus chose to join the ranks of sinners, to be in solidarity with them, expressing God's closeness.

Jesus shows his solidarity with us, with our efforts to convert and to be rid of our selfishness, to break away from our sins in order to tell us that if we accept him in our life, he can uplift us and lead us to the heights of God the Father. And Jesus' solidarity is not, as it were, a mere exercise of mind and will. Jesus truly immersed himself in our human condition, lived it to the end, in all things save sin, and was able to understand our weakness and frailty. For this reason, he was moved to compassion, he chose to "suffer with" men and women, to become a penitent with us. This is God's work which Jesus wanted to carry out: the divine mission to heal those who are wounded and give medicine to the sick, to take upon himself the sin of the world.

What happened at the moment when Jesus had himself baptized by John? In the face of this act of humble love by the Son of God, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit showed himself in the form of a dove, while a voice from on high expressed the pleasure of the Father who acknowledged his Only-Begotten, his beloved Son. This was a real manifestation of the Blessed Trinity, that bears witness to the divinity of Jesus, of his being the promised Messiah, the One whom God sent to set his People free in order to save them (cf. Is 40:2).

(continued on insert)