



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 18, 2026

Behold the Lamb of God



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.”

954 Stuyvesant Ave Irvington NJ 07111 Phone: (973) 375-8568

Fax (973) 375-7040 Email gsirvington@comcast.net

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME. [A] JAN. 18, 2026

We have now begun the season of ordinary time, today is the second Sunday and two thoughts dominate this Sunday: first, John's dramatic call to behold the Lamb of God; second, that we have just finished Christmas and are beginning a new year. With regard to beginning the new year there is the sense of the need to take stock, to look at where we are going, and to make the inevitable "resolutions" that might raise the quality of this coming year.

The Baptist asks us to take stock and make changes; to ask what are we fundamentally about and then seek to reset our lives. As active Christians are we able to recognize Jesus Christ? Is he a focus in our lives or just out on the edges? Is he the one we look to for help in time of need, for guidance in our doubts?

An honest stock-taking of our fundamental situation that is offered here may contrast with the ego-centric way we usually conduct our lives. We need to recognize something outside of and larger than us, the God who cares for us, and for the whole human community in which we are involved. Can we listen to John's call to restore what is broken, and Jesus' call, to bring light to the world? Do we see that it is with our willing help that the Lamb can remove the "sin of the world?"

Facing deeper truths is always difficult; it calls us to not just drift along with this world's evil, as the line of least resistance. Discipleship is urgent and costly, but it is also possible and is the way towards the deeper joy and fulfilment that we seek. If we properly hear the Baptist in his solemn act of witnessing to Christ, then our response will be a stock-taking that goes to the root of our being. It may even reveal to us the truth that sets us free.

The Lord said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength- he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

The role of John the Baptist was to reveal Christ. As he said, "it was to reveal him to Israel that I came." Today's gospel describes him bowing out when Jesus arrived. "Look," he said, "there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." Ever since, these words have been enshrined in the Mass when the priest holds up the consecrated host just before communion.

All Christians are called to perform this prophetic role and nobody more than those who have others in their care. Above all parents whose duty is to introduce their children to Christ, to hand on the faith to them. Unfortunately, it doesn't always happen. Sometimes, young people who give up the practice of their religion were put off it by their parents. What they saw they didn't like. It is no wonder we speak nowadays about a credibility gap.

The response to the psalm is a little prayer that sums up our roles as Christians: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will. There am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20).

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 17-Jan 24, 2026

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

Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Helene Brazela
Jan 18 11:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya

Monday 9:00am For the Health and Wellbeing of Sandi Mosley
Jan 19

Tuesday 7:00am For the Health and Wellbeing of Venus Matthews
Jan 20

Wednesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Barbara Banks
Jan 21

Thursday 7:00am For Gods Guidance and Protection of Mike & Vickie Barron
Jan 22

Friday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
Jan 23

Saturday 8:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Rene Victor
Jan 24 5:30pm For God's Blessing on the People of Good Shepherd Parish

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

Report Financial Misconduct Confidentially

*If you suspect financial misconduct, use **EthicsPoint**, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues and promote positive parish, school, and workplace environments. Visit www.rcan.org for the hotline and reporting link.*

*The **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** receives reports of sexual abuse or misconduct by bishops and forwards them for investigation. To report abuse, visit www.reportbishopabuse.org or call **800-276-1562**.*

Report Sexual Misconduct Confidentially

*The Archdiocese of Newark takes all allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy, religious, and lay staff seriously. We encourage anyone with knowledge of such acts to contact us so we can take appropriate steps to protect others and support victims of sexual abuse. Please call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at **201-407-3256** or visit www.rcan.org/protection-of-the-faithful for more information.*

Collection Report

Weekly Target	\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)	\$2,085.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 4,415.00

Fiscal Year to Date

Budget:	\$379,864.00
Actual:	\$ 57,273.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$322,971.00

Rolling 4 Week Averages	
Average Collection:	\$2,139.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,361.00

Minister Assignments Jan 24-Jan25, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
1/24 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Barbara Banks Avenella Samaroo	Fr. Augustine
1/25 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyegbule	Fr. Augustine
1/25 11: 00am	Jude Ogbo	Jerome Hule Janet Drewes Luer Drewes	Fr. Augustine

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Jan 18

Monday Jan 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Morning Mass 9:00AM, Rectory will be closed

Tuesday Jan 20

Saint Fabian and Saint Sebastian

Wednesday Jan 21

Saint Agnes

Thursday Jan 22

Day of Prayer for legal Protection of
Unborn Children

Friday Jan 23

Saint Vincent and Saint Marianne Cope

Saturday Jan 24

Saint Francis de Sales

Good Shepherd Parish InformationRECTORY HOURS: Monday Thru Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PMParish Registration Forms can be found at the back of the church or call the rectory at (973) 375-8568THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 4:45PM - 5:15PMTHE 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) 375-8568THE 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)375-8568PASTORAL OF THE SICK Notify a priest of all who are hospitalized, home-bound, or Emergencies call (973)375-8568ORDER 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)-375-8568RELIGIOUS 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.

Pope Francis Angelus at Saint Peter's Square Sunday, 5. January 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

And well done, you are brave, with the rain! Happy Sunday!

Today the Gospel (cf. *Jn* 1:1-18), talking to us about Jesus, Word incarnate, tells us that “*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*” (*Jn* 1:5). It reminds us, then, how powerful is God’s love, which is not overcome by anything and which, despite obstacles and rejections, continues to shine and illuminate our path.

We see it at Christmas, when the Son of God, made man, overcomes so many walls and so many divisions. He confronts the closed minds and hearts of the “great” of His time, who are concerned more with defending power than seeking the Lord (cf. *Mt* 2:3-18). Then, he shares the humble life of Mary and Joseph, who welcome Him and raise Him with love, but with the limited possibilities and the hardships of those without means: they were poor. He offers Himself, fragile and defenceless, to the encounter with the shepherds (cf. *Lk* 2:8-18), men whose hearts are marked by the harshness of life and the disdain of society; and then with the Magi (cf. *Mt* 2:1) who, driven by the desire to know Him, face a long journey and find Him in a home of ordinary people, in great poverty.

Faced with these and many other challenges, which seem contradictions, God never stops – let us listen to this clearly, God never stops. He finds a thousand ways to reach everyone, each and every one of us, wherever we are, without calculation and without conditions, opening even in the darkest nights of humanity windows of light that the darkness cannot obscure (cf. *Is* 9:1-6). It is a reality that consoles us and encourages us, especially in a time such as ours, a time that is not easy, where there is a great need for light, for hope, and a need for peace, a world where men at times create situations so complicated that it seems impossible to get out of them. It seems impossible to get out of them, from many situations. But today the Word of God tells us that it is not so! Rather, it calls us to imitate the God of love, opening up glimmers of light wherever we can, with whomever we meet, in any context: family, social, international. It invites us not to fear taking the first step – this is the Lord’s invitation today – not to fear taking the first step. It takes courage to do it, but let us not be afraid to throw open bright windows of closeness to those who are suffering, of forgiveness, of compassion and reconciliation: these are the many first steps we must take to make the journey clearer, safer and possible for all. And this invitation resounds in a particular way in the *Jubilee Year* that has just begun, urging us to be messengers of hope with a simple but concrete “yes” to life, with choices that bring life. Let us do this, all of us, this: this is the way of salvation!

And so, at the beginning of a new year, we can ask ourselves: how can I open a window of light in my environment and in my relationships? Where can I be a glimmer of light that lets God’s love pass through? What is the first step I should take today?