



11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 14, 2026



*The harvest
is abundant*

© JPPC

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
gsvirvington@comcast.net

PASTOR'S REFLECTION ON 11TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME JUNE 14, 2026.

We are always fascinated when it comes to royalty. We seem to be excited and fascinated when it comes about the lives of royal families, the pomp, pageantry, and ceremony, family dramas, fashion, wealth, the births, weddings and funerals this seen more with those from England and other parts of the world. As our country the United States of America celebrates her 250 years this year, we had the Royal family- King Charles II and his wife visited the President at the White House and in New York. Here in this country many of us are not thrilled when it comes with royalty.

Thus, the words we heard in the First reading, from the times of Moses and Aaron, point to a royal invitation from God! 'If you obey my voice and keep my covenant... you shall be to me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation'. This overwhelming perspective may sound though somewhat enigmatic as the logic and meaning of the Old Testament often remains unclear for many of us. Also, there is an important 'if' there, 'if you obey my voice and keep my covenant', in other words, if you genuinely listen to me and keep my words.

Now, was the message about our potential royal destination a matter of consideration for our ancestors in faith only? No, it became a principle of our Christian vocation. In the Book of Revelation John gives thanks to Jesus Christ 'who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father'. Jesus prompts the apostles to proclaim this good news: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near'.

Now St Matthew whom we listened this morning and will listen over the next weeks, every day, doesn't seem to grow tired of delivering this message, a message about the kingdom of heaven. We would be hearing this- the Kingdom of heaven throughout this liturgical year.

The problem is that we often hear, 'There is no need for you to understand; this is a mystery'. But Jesus said to his disciples: 'To you, it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven'. When explaining the parable of the Sower, Jesus described the one who will truly blossom and bear fruit: 'The one who hears the word and understands it'? We need to listen, but crucially we need to understand. Through understanding, we can fully exploit the privilege granted to us, the disciples of Jesus, to gain knowledge of the secrets of the heavenly kingdom.

Thus. in his mission, as our Lord Jesus was more about evangelization, so, when he sees that lots of people are looking for God and want to follow God, Jesus tells his apostles and disciples like us, that the harvest is abundant, the laborers are few. We are called to be evangelizers in this our mission country.

But the questions are, what about our own times? Are we people looking for God? Are you looking for God? Am I looking for God. That is the challenge. That is the invitation. God invites us to seek the Kingdom. And as we seek, then we discover that the Kingdom is right here in our midst. Like the chosen people in Exodus, we shall suffer on the way to discover the Kingdom, even though it is right here. To be a disciple of Jesus, therefore, is to carry our cross and follow him, it is the cross of suffering and the cross of joy that leads into the Kingdom of God.

Let us pray this Sunday for a deeper awareness of God's divine presence in our personal lives and in the life of our Christian communities. Let us ask that the Holy Spirit will give us the vision to see how God is present in our world, as he has chosen us to be people peculiar to Him and a holy nation.

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 June 13, -June 20, 2026

Saturday June 13	5:30PM	For God's Blessings on the Academic's of Chisom Ibedu
Sunday June 14	9:00am	For the Protection of the Babies in the Womb and Their Families
Monday June 15	11:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Catherine Halim
Tuesday June 16	7:00am	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Sheri Oguh
Wednesday June 17	7:00am	For God's Help and Intentions of Partick Onwuka
Thursday June 18	7:00am	For the repose of the Soul of Ruth Mitchel
Friday June 19	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews
Saturday June 20	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of the Fathers of Good Shepherd Parish
	5:30pm	For God's Guidance and Protection of the Fathers 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

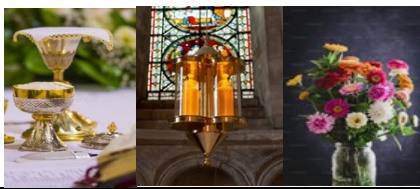
* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

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

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.



ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The Annual Appeal is ongoing, your contributions to the appeal will help so many lives.

Collection Report		June 7, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,922.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,578.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 86,106.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$371.248.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,709.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,791.00

Minister Assignments June 20—June 21, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
06/20 5:30pm	Al Papp	Denise Perry Nellie Bate Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
06/21 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyegbule	Fr. Val
06/21 11: 00am	Sylvia Edozie	Jerome Hule Janet Drewes Luer Drewes	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday June 14
FLAG DAY
Monday June 15
Tuesday June 16
Wednesday June 17
Thursday June 18
Friday June 19
Saint Romuald Juneteenth
Saturday June 20
Blessed Virgin Marry

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.

POPE LEO XIV NEW ENCYCLICAL ON MAGNIFA HUMANITAS

INTRODUCTION

1. Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible. Yet every era also runs the risk of creating an inhumane and more unjust world. Whenever humanity is in danger of marring its true identity, we Christians lift our eyes to the Incarnate God, knowing that it is “only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear.” [1] In Jesus Christ, this humanity in its grandeur becomes the Way, the Truth and the Life, opening the path for each of us to grow toward fullness.

2. Founded on Christ, the living stone, we experience the powerful and mysterious action of the Holy Spirit, and we believe that every authentic human effort to cooperate with him for the good will be blessed by our heavenly Father, in whom we place our hope. For this reason, we can diligently contribute to every initiative that builds a more just world, and we can call others to collaborate in promoting the integral development of every human being. We wish to engage in dialogue with all men and women of our time, with whom we share in the events, questions and aspirations of humanity. [2] Together with them, we seek to identify new paths for the common good and for promoting a dignified life for all. Indeed, openness to dialogue is an integral part of the Church’s vocation because, constituted in Christ as “a sacrament... of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race,” [3] she recognizes history as the place where the Gospel challenges and directs human experience.

3. In this spirit, [Pope Leo XIII](#) published his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891, the 135th anniversary of which we celebrate with deep gratitude this year. With that document, my beloved predecessor gave impetus to the reflection on society, the economy and politics, which is now known as the “Social Doctrine of the Church.” When some objected that the Church should not waste energy on worldly matters, but instead focus on communicating the message of eternal life, [Leo XIII](#) responded with realism and wisdom, saying that the proclamation of the Gospel cannot overlook the concrete lives of people. [4] Many decades have passed since then, and the Magisterium, pastors, theologians and faithful have continued to reflect on social issues in the light of the Gospel. Today, the Social Doctrine of the Church is a legacy of wisdom, where we find principles for thought, criteria for discernment and judgment, and concrete guidelines for action. Founded on Sacred Scripture and Tradition, and in engagement with the sciences, it helps us clearly interpret the challenges of the present and identify appropriate ways for living out a clear Christian witness, with joy and in service to the world. It is not an inert set of concepts, but a living *corpus* of truth that safeguards and interprets humanity’s vocation to a full and just life. I therefore wish to add my own voice to this living tradition, invoking the help of the Spirit of wisdom, who has dwelt in the world since its beginning (cf. *Prov* 8:22-31).