



**CORPUS CHRISTI**

**JUNE 7, 2026**



## **BREAD OF LIFE**



### **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](http://www.goodshepherdnj.com)**



**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 THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI JUNE 2026**

*Today, we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Most Holy Body of Christ), the permanent presence of Christ in the great sacrament of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Christ is present in many ways: in the community who have come to celebrate, in his word proclaimed, but, above all, in the bread and wine transformed into his body and blood shared among us. The First from the Book of Deuteronomy began with what Moses said to the people "Remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you" (Deut. 8:2). Today's Scripture readings begin with this command of Moses: Remember! Shortly afterwards Moses reiterates: "Do not forget the Lord, your God" (v.14). Scripture has been given to us that we might overcome our forgetfulness of God. How important it is to remember this when we pray! As one of the Psalms teaches: "I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old" (77:11). But all those wonders too, that the Lord has worked in our own lives.*

*As late Pope Francis wrote in his homily on June 14, 2020, that "It is important for us to remember the good we have received. If we do not remember it, we become strangers to ourselves, "passers-by" of existence. Without memory, we uproot ourselves from the soil that nourishes us and allow ourselves to be carried away like leaves in the wind. If we do remember, however, we bind ourselves afresh to the strongest of ties; we feel part of a living history, the living experience of a people. Memory is not something private; it is the path that unites us to God and to others. This is why in the Bible the memory of the Lord must be passed on from generation to generation. Fathers are commanded to tell the story to their sons, as we read in a beautiful passage. "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord our God has commanded you?', then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves... [think of the whole history of slavery!], and the Lord showed signs and wonders... before our eyes'" (Deut. 6:20-22). You shall hand down this memory to your son.*

*But there is a problem: what if the chain of transmission of memories is interrupted? And how can we remember what we have only heard, unless we have also experienced it? God knows how difficult it is, he knows how weak our memory is, and he has done something remarkable: he left us a memorial. He did not just leave us words, for it is easy to forget what we hear. He did not just leave us the Scriptures, for it is easy to forget what we read. He did not just leave us signs, for we can forget even what we see. He gave us Food, for it is not easy to forget something we have actually tasted. He left us Bread in which he is truly present, alive and true, with all the flavor of his love. Receiving him we can say: "He is the Lord; he remembers me!" That is why Jesus told us: "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11:24). Do! The Eucharist is not simply an act of remembrance; it is a fact: the Lord's Passover is made present once again for us. In Mass the death and resurrection of Jesus are set before us. Do this in remembrance of me: come together and celebrate the Eucharist as a community, as a people, as a family, in order to remember me. We cannot do without the Eucharist, for it is God's memorial. And it heals our wounded memory."*

*So, it should come to us as no surprise that Jesus' last act before his death on the Cross was to share a meal with his disciples – his Last Supper. In the course of this meal, he takes bread and wine, blesses them and gives them to his disciples saying: 'Take and eat, this is my body; Take and drink, this is my blood. Do this in memory of me.' Jesus commands his disciples to keep his memory alive by gathering together to break and share bread. And this is what we do every time we celebrate the Eucharist.*

*Jesus' last meal with his disciples is inseparable from the sacrifice of his life on the Cross, his supreme act of love. Love is manifested supremely in self-sacrifice. 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' (Jn 15:13). Therefore, when celebrate the Eucharist, we have to do what the Apostles did at the Last Supper, when they had to heightened the vision of their faith, and looked beyond the humanity of Christ to comprehend his divinity so also for us to comprehend the Divinity of Christ, we have to heightened the vision of our faith and look beyond the species of bread as the Apostles did in order for us to comprehend the Divinity of Christ. Thus, in receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become one, not only with Jesus, but with one another.*

*As St Paul reminds us in our Second Reading today: 'Though we are many, we form a single body because we share in this one loaf' (1 Cor 10:17).*

**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 6, -June 13, 2026**

Saturday	5:00PM	God's Loving care on the People of God Shepherd Parish
June 06		
Sunday	9:00am	For God's Help and Protection of Denise Perry
June 07	11:00am	For the Repose of the Soul and the Memorial Birthday of Angelina N. Ugwuanya
Monday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
June 08		
Tuesday	7:00am	For God's Help Guidance and Protection of Patrick Onwuka
June 09		
Wednesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul on the Anniversary Birthday of Benjamin Perry Sr..
June 10		
Thursday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Cassata
June 11		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul and the Anniversary Birthday of Angelina N. Ugwuanya
June 12		
Saturday	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley
June 13	5:30pm	For the Academic Intentions of Chisom Ibedu

*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

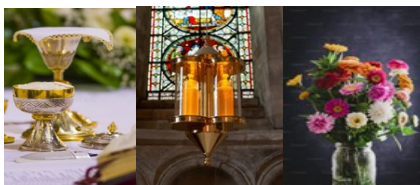
*We will be getting new Missal/Hymnal books on the week of November 30th First Week of Advent)*  
*Please, take this opportunity to honor a loved one (living or deceased) or commemorate a special event, like the birth of a child, anniversary, etc.,*

**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 <sup>2026</sup> APPEAL**

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

Collection Report		May 31, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,191.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,309.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 82,184.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$297,680.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,685.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,815.00

**Minister Assignments June 13, - June 14, 2026**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
06/13 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
06/14 9:00AM	Paulette Anderson- Spence	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita Onyegbule	Fr. Val
06/14 11: 00am	Dorothy Nwanonyiri	Jerome Hule Janet Drewes Luer Drewes	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday June 07
CORPUS CHRISTI
Monday June 08
Tuesday June 09
Saint Ephrem
Wednesday June 10
Thursday June 11
Saint Barnabas, Apostle
Friday June 12
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday June 13
The Immaculate Heart of The Blessed Virgin Mary Saint Anthony of Padua

**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.

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

### **HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

Sunday, 14 June 2020

“Remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you” (*Deut* 8:2). Today’s Scripture readings begin with this command of Moses: *Remember!* Shortly afterwards Moses reiterates: “Do not forget the Lord, your God” (v.14). Scripture has been given to us that we might overcome our forgetfulness of God. How important it is to remember this when we pray! As one of the Psalms teaches: “I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old” (77:11). But all those wonders too, that the Lord has worked in our own lives.

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The Eucharist first heals our *orphaned memory*. We are living at a time of great orphanage. The Eucharist heals *orphaned memory*. So many people have memories marked by a lack of affection and bitter disappointments caused by those who should have given them love and instead orphaned their hearts. We would like to go back and change the past, but we cannot. God, however, can heal these wounds by placing within our memory a greater love: his own love. The Eucharist brings us the Father’s faithful love, which heals our sense of being orphans. It gives us Jesus’ love, which transformed a tomb from an end to a beginning, and in the same way can transform our lives. It fills our hearts with the consoling love of the Holy Spirit, who never leaves us alone and always heals our wounds.

Through the Eucharist, the Lord also heals our *negative memory*, that negativity which seeps so often into our hearts. The Lord heals this negative memory, which drags to the surface things that have gone wrong and leaves us with the sorry notion that we are useless, that we only make mistakes, that we are ourselves a mistake. Jesus comes to tell us that this is not so. He wants to be close to us. Every time we receive him, he reminds us that we are precious, that we are guests he has invited to his banquet, friends with whom he wants to dine. And not only because he is generous, but because he is truly in love with us. He sees and loves the beauty and goodness that we are. The Lord knows that evil and sins do not define us; they are diseases, infections. And he comes to heal them with the Eucharist, which contains the antibodies to our negative memory. With Jesus, we can *become immune to sadness*. We will always remember our failures, troubles, problems at home and at work, our unrealized dreams. But their weight will not crush us because Jesus is present even more deeply, encouraging us with his love. This is the strength of the Eucharist, which transforms us into *bringers of God*, bringers of joy, not negativity. We who go to Mass can ask: What is it that we bring to the world? Is it our sadness and bitterness, or the joy of the Lord? Do we receive Holy Communion and then carry on complaining, criticizing and feeling sorry for ourselves? This does not improve anything, whereas the joy of the Lord can change lives.

Finally, the Eucharist heals our *closed memory*. The wounds we keep inside create problems not only for us, but also for others. They make us fearful and suspicious. We start with being closed, and end up cynical and indifferent. Our wounds can lead us to react to others with detachment and arrogance, in the illusion that in this way we can control situations. Yet that is indeed an illusion, for only love can heal fear at its root and free us from the self-centredness that imprisons us. And that is what Jesus does. He approaches us gently, in the disarming simplicity of the Host. He comes as Bread broken in order to break open the shells of our selfishness. He gives of himself in order to teach us that only by opening our hearts can we be set free from our interior barriers, from the paralysis of the heart...

It is especially urgent now to take care of those who hunger for food and for dignity, of those without work and those who struggle to carry on. And this we must do in a real way, as real as the Bread that Jesus gives us. Genuine closeness is needed, as are true bonds of solidarity. In the Eucharist, Jesus draws close to us: let us not turn away from those around us!

Dear brothers and sisters, let us continue our celebration of Holy Mass: the Memorial that heals our memory. And let us also rediscover Eucharistic adoration, which continues the work of the Mass within us. This will do us much good, for it heals us within. Especially now, when our need is so great.