



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**May 24, 2026**



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**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](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)**

**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](http://Goodshepherdnj.com)  
 Or email us at  
[gsirvington@comcast.net](mailto:gsirvington@comcast.net)

**PASTOR'S REFLECTION ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST MAY 24, 2026**

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. In the early days of the Church, today marked the beginning and the day the Church was born in the Upper Room where the Apostles with our Blessed Mother Mary were praying and the place shook and the Holy Spirit descended upon them that made them to speak in tongues, that enabled people from different nationalities were able to understand them in their languages. The Old Testament feast of Pentecost occurred 50 days after Passover—the commemoration of the Exodus of the Israelites from captivity and slavery in Egypt—in celebration of God’s gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the New Covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning—the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, the “passing over” from death to life and from earth to heaven, the “exodus” of God’s People from this sinful world to the eternal Kingdom. The New Testament Pentecost also is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the “new law” with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit Christ promised to His disciples came on the day of Pentecost (John 14:26, 15:26; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5) as the apostles received “the power from on high” and began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. Traditionally, this moment has been called the “birthday of the Church.”

On this day’s great Feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the fulfillment of the deepest desires of those who bear the divine image and likeness to participate personally in the eternal life of God or in the Divine life. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes upon on the Apostles as they are gathered together in obedience to the command of the risen Lord. The same divine breath which first gave us life from the dust of the earth now comes as a mighty, rushing wind. The divine glory beheld by Moses in the burning bush now rests upon each one personally as flames of fire. The divided speech of the tower of Babel is now overcome by the miracle of speaking in different languages as a sign that everyone is invited to share in the life of the Lord. This great feast manifests the fulfillment of God’s gracious promises for the entire world and every human person in the Body of Christ, the Church born at Pentecost.

As we celebrate this festivity, the Spirit also tells us, “Look to the whole”. The whole, not the part. The Spirit does not mold isolated individuals, but shapes us into a Church in the wide variety of our charisms, into a unity that is never uniformity. The Paraclete affirms *the primacy of the whole*. There, in the whole, in the community, the Spirit prefers to work and to bring newness. Let us look at the apostles. Today, Jesus offers us heavenly comfort, the Holy Spirit, who is “of comforters the best” (*Sequence*). What is the difference? The comforts of the world are like a pain reliever: they can give momentary relief, but not cure the illness we carry deep within. They can soothe us, but not heal us at the core. They work on the surface, on the level of the senses, but hardly touch our hearts. Only someone who makes us feel loved for who we are can give peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, the love of God, does precisely that. He comes down within us; as the Spirit, he acts in our spirit. He comes down “within the heart”, as “the soul’s most welcome guest”

Today, if we listen to the Spirit, we will not be concerned with conservatives and progressives, traditionalists and innovators, right and left. When those become our criteria, then the Church has forgotten the Spirit. The Paraclete impels us to unity, to concord, to *the harmony of diversity*. He makes us see ourselves as parts of the same body, brothers and sisters of one another. Let us look to the whole! The enemy wants diversity to become opposition and so he makes them become ideologies. Let us say no to ideologies, yes to the whole.

Let us today pray to the Holy Spirit, Paraclete Spirit, comfort our hearts. We pray that the Holy Spirit would make us missionaries of His comfort, paracletes of his mercy before the world. To renew the face of our fragile world engulfed with wars, violence hatred and with the virus of selfish indifference. Come our Advocate, sweet counsellor of the soul, make us witnesses of the “today” of God, prophets of unity for the Church and humanity, and apostles and evangelizers grounded in your grace, which creates and renews all things. Amen.

**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 May 23, - May 30, 2026

Saturday 5:00PM Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Darrell Williams  
May 23

Sunday 9:00am Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Chukwuemeke Oguh  
May 24 11:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Angelina N. Ugwuanya

Monday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Melannie Zappa  
May 25

Tuesday 7:00am Thanksgiving for the Wedding Anniversary of Darrell & Ugochi Williams  
May 26

Wednesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Brenda Perry  
May 27

Thursday 7:00am Mass of Thanksgiving for the Priestly Anniversary of Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya  
May 28

Friday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Margaret Christy  
May 29

Saturday 8:30am For the People of Good Shepherd Parish  
May 30 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Victoria 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

# ANNUAL <sup>2026</sup> APPEAL

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

## Breaking Bread Covers:

Do you have an event you would like to acknowledge or a remembrance of a person. You can have an announcement on the cover of a Breaking Bread for \$20.00 Please complete the flyer on the ledges in the back of the church.

The **Shrine of St. Joseph** is hosting a **Men's Morning** on **Saturday, June 6, from 8:00–11:30 AM.**

The morning includes Mass at 8:00 AM in the Chapel followed by breakfast, a talk, witness, prayer, and a small-group discussion. The featured presentation, *“What it means to be a Catholic Man in Today's World,”* will be given by author and speaker **Kevin Wells**. The morning will also include a witness by **Br. Ken Apuzzo** of the Brotherhood of Hope on the many young people who entered the Catholic Church this Easter through campus ministry and the growing renewal of faith among young adults at Seton Hall University and Rutgers University. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

To register, please visit. [shrineofsaintjoseph.com/menofsaintjoseph](http://shrineofsaintjoseph.com/menofsaintjoseph)

Collection Report		May 17 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,376.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 5,124.00
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 79,909.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$299,955.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,883.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,617.00

**Minister Assignments May 30 – May 31, 2026**

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
05/30 5:30pm	Al Papp	Denise Perry Nellie Bate Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
05/31 9:00AM	Paulette Anderson - Spence	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Denise Perry	Fr. Val
05/31 11: 00am	Dorothy Nwanonyiri	Jacqueline Ozuoh Janet Drewes Luer Drewes	Fr. Val

**GSP EVENT CALENDER**

Sunday May 24
PENTECOST SUNDAY
Monday May 25
Blessed Virgin Mary Morning Mass 9:00AM Memorial Day - Rectory Closed
Tuesday May 26
Saint Philip Neri
Wednesday May 27
Saint Augustine of Canterbury
Thursday May 28
Friday May 29
Saint Paul VI
Saturday May 30
Blessed Virgin Mary

**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 PENTECOST

### ***HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI*** Vatican Basilica Sunday, 27 May 2012

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

I am glad to celebrate this Holy Mass with you, enlivened today also by the Choir of the Academy of Santa Cecilia and by the Youth Orchestra — whom I thank — on the [Solemnity of Pentecost](#). This mystery constitutes the Church's baptism. It is an event which gave her, so to speak, her initial form and the drive for her mission. And this "form" and this "drive" are ever effective, ever present, and are renewed in a special way through the liturgical actions.

This morning I would like to reflect on an essential aspect of the Mystery of Pentecost which has preserved its full importance in our time. Pentecost is the feast of union, comprehension and human communion. We can all see that in our world, although we are increasingly close to one another with the development of the means of communication and geographical distances seem to be disappearing, understanding and communion between people is both superficial and problematic...

The narrative of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, which we heard in the First Reading (cf. Acts 2:1-11), contains against the background of one of the great frescoes we find at the beginning of the Old Testament: the ancient history of the construction of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9). But what is Babel? It is the description of a kingdom in which men had concentrated so much power that they thought they no longer needed to rely on a distant God and that they were powerful enough to be able to build a way to heaven by themselves in order to open its gates and usurp God's place.

However, at this very moment something strange and unusual happens. While the men are working together to build the tower they suddenly realize that they are building against each other. While endeavoring to be like God, they even risk no longer being human because they have lost a fundamental element of being human: the ability to agree, to understand each other and to work together.

This biblical account contains a perennial truth; we can see it in history and in our world too. The progress of science and technology have enabled us to dominate the forces of nature, to manipulate the elements and to reproduce living beings, almost to the point of manufacturing the very human being. In this situation praying to God seems obsolete or pointless, because we ourselves can construct and achieve whatever we like.

Yet we do not realize that we are reliving the same experience as Babel. It is true, we have increased the possibility of communication, of obtaining information, of transmitting news, but can we say that our ability to understand each other has increased? Or, perhaps, paradoxically, do we understand each other less and less? Doesn't a sense of mutual mistrust, suspicion and fear seem to be creeping in among human beings even to the point of making one individual dangerous to another? Let us therefore return to our initial question: can unity and harmony really exist? How?...

However, let us look at today's Gospel in which Jesus says: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (Jn 16:13). Here, in speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus explains to us what the Church is and how she should live in order to be herself, to be the place of unity and communion in Truth; he tells us that behaving as Christians means no longer being shut into our own "I" but rather being open to all things: it means inwardly welcoming the whole Church within ourselves or, even better, inwardly letting her receive us...

The comparison of Babel with Pentecost is re-echoed once again in the Second Reading where the Apostle says: "Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal 5:16). St Paul explains to us that our personal life is marked by an inner conflict, a rupture between the impulses that come from the flesh and those that come from the Spirit; and we cannot follow them all. Indeed, we cannot be both selfish and generous, follow the tendency to dominate others and at the same time feel the joy of disinterested service. We always have to choose which impulse to follow and we can do so authentically only with the help of the Spirit of Christ... St Paul — as we have heard — lists the works of the flesh. They are the sins of selfishness and violence, enmity, discord, jealousy and disagreement; they are thoughts and actions that do not let us live in a truly human and Christian way, in love. This direction leads to the loss of one's own life. The Holy Spirit on the contrary leads us to the heights of God, so that we may already experience on this earth the seed of divine life which exists within us. St Paul says in fact: "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." (Gal 5:22)...Gathered with Mary, as at her birth, today too the Church prays: "Veni Sancte Spiritus! — Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!". Amen.