



6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

FEBURARY 15, 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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SERVED BY
 Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor
 Denise Perry Secretary

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Goodshepherdnj.com
 Or email us at
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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORD.TIME [A] FROM THE PASTORS DESK FEB. 15, 2026

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them. (Matt.5:17)

We are on the threshold and the last Sunday before we begin the Church’s Lenten Season. The readings for the 6th Sunday, help us think about our choices. Choices we have to make. God said in the Book of Sirach chapter 15:15-16, “I have placed before you fire and water, to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given to him.” God gives us the freedom to choose between good and evil. He doesn’t force us. But He wants us to choose life. His commandments are there to guide us, not to burden us. In the Gospel, Jesus says He didn’t come to get rid of the law. He came to bring it to its fullest meaning. He wants more than just the outside actions. He calls us to go deeper—to be honest, to be pure, to let go of anger, and to speak with truth.

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three-part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today’s reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord’s Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

When Matthew speaks of “the Law and the prophets” he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead, it will be fulfilled. Matthew’s Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

Today’s Gospel Reading (Matt. 5:20-26) therefore, reflects a part of Christ’s sermon on the mount, which presupposes going deeper in living out the law of God, a deeper way of loving God and our neighbor and not just attaching ourselves to the letters of the laws alone as the Pharisees and Teachers of the law did. Little wonder he said: “For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.” And going to interpret the Law, He recalls the Old Law: “You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill, he must answer for it before the court.” After this, He interprets it with authority, saying: “But I say this to you...” This way, He not only speaks against killing but also the occasions and circumstances that may lead one to kill his fellowman – anger, foul language etc. The Pharisees who were noted as the interpreters and teachers of the Jewish Law would stop at “thou shall not kill”; however, for Christ, the Supreme Judicial Officer, it is not enough to stay away from killing another man, but also to avoid situations that offend and harm others. Our Lord is speaking about the Spirit of the Law, which goes deeper than the Letter of the Law. Consequently, He proposes a way of fraternal reconciliation as an indispensable tool for resolving conflicts. Going further, Christ asks his disciples to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies. Thus, the fifth commandment does not only forbid the killing of another but also the occasions that might lead to killing a fellow man, such as anger, hatred, violence, vengeance, etc. Here, Christ forbids violence, retaliation, and repaying evil with evil, but calls us to become like him in virtues – “Christ-like.”

Going further, Christ interprets the law of adultery which transcends a superficial observance of the moral code. Here, Jesus insists that adultery, the violation of the sixth commandment, is also committed through willfully generated impure thoughts and desires which are willingly sustained in the mind. He teaches us that our hands become agents of sin according to what we touch and how we touch, in lust or greed or violence. Our eyes become agents of sins according to what they look at. When Jesus recommends the mutilation of eyes and hands, he is not speaking literally, because we have more sins than we have body parts.

Thus, today’s pronouncement of Jesus is treaty against hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the Sadducees of both his time and our present age who interpret the law falsely in order to suit their idiosyncrasy and to the detriment of the people. It is a treaty against all false Seers, Healers, Leaders and Pastors of flocks who employ the word of God and the messenger’s formula “**Koh âmar Adonai**” (Thus says the Lord!) falsely in order to intimidate, rip off, exploit, subjugate and enslave people. It is a treaty against those of our present age who see sin in everything or every action of the human person especially in things they cannot comprehend thereby making life difficult for others while they themselves fall short of virtually everything the word of God commands

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
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Mass Intentions For the week of Feb 14 –Feb 21, 2026

Saturday	5:30pm	For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Ann Pecorelli
Feb 14		
Sunday	9:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Venus Matthews
Feb 15	11:00am	For Thanksgiving of Marie Andlene` Garcon
Monday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
Feb 16		
Tuesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Robert Hinton
Feb 17		
Wednesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Wilson Perry
Feb 18		
Thursday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Alton Dixson
Feb 19		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Deacon George Sica
Feb 20		
Saturday	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Jeneene Butler
Feb 21	5:30pm	For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley

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

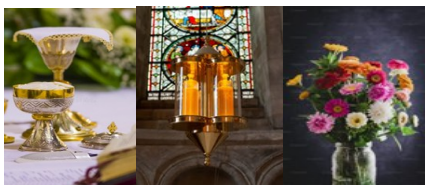
* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

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.



ANNIVERSARY LITURGY FOR COUPLES:
Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.
 Cardinal Tobin, will be celebrating one mass for all married couples.
 Please use the QR Code to register.



Collection Report		Feb 1, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,927.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 3,573.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 63,180.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$316,684.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,922.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,578.00

Minister Assignments Feb 21—Feb 22, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
2/21 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Nellie Bate	Fr. Val
2/22 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Denise Perry	Fr. Val
2/22 11: 00am	TBD	Jerome Hule Pedro Burbano Anthonia Ogbo	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday Feb 15
Monday Feb 16
Presidents Day Rectory Closed
Tuesday Feb 17
The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Wednesday Feb 18
ASH WEDNESDAY
Thursday Feb 19
Friday Feb 20
Saturday Feb 21
Saint Peter Damian

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 Francis Angelus On Matt. 5: 25-37 June 12, 2013

Jesus explained to those who accused him of wishing to change the Mosaic Laws. He reassured them, saying “I have come not to abolish but to fulfil”. For the law, “is a fruit of the Covenant. It is impossible to understand the law without the Covenant. The law is more or less the way to enter the Covenant”, which began with a promise on that afternoon in the earthly paradise, then continued with Noah’s Ark, with Moses in the desert and then continued as the law of Israel in order to do God’s will”.

This law “is sacred”, because it brought the people to God. Therefore “it cannot be touched”. Some said that Jesus “was changing this law”. Instead, he was seeking to explain clearly that there was a path that would lead “to the growth”, to “the full maturity of the law”.

The law that sets us free is the law of the Spirit.

However, it is a freedom which in a certain sense is frightening. Because, it can be confused with some other forms of human freedom. Then “the law of the Spirit leads us to the road of continuous discernment in order to do God’s will”. This too is somewhat frightening to us”. However, when we are assailed by this fear we risk of succumbing to two temptations. The first is “to turn back because we are uncertain. But this interrupts the journey”. It is “the temptation of the fear of freedom, of fear of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit frightens us”.

In the 1930s a diligent superior of a religious congregation was spending many years collecting all the rules of his congregation: what the religious were permitted to do and what they were not permitted to do. Then, once he had finished his task, he went to an important Benedictine Abbot who was in Rome, to show him his work. The Abbot looked at it and said: Father, with this you have killed the charism of your congregation! He had killed freedom. For the charism gives fruits of freedom and he had blocked the charism. This is not life. That congregation was unable to go on living. What happened? Twenty-five years after that masterpiece, no one looked at it and it ended on a library shelf.

The second temptation is “adolescent progressivism”. But it is not real progress: it is a culture that moves ahead from which we are unable to detach ourselves and from which we take the laws and values we like best, just as teenagers do. In the end we run the risk of slipping, “just as a car skids on an icy road and ends up in the ditch”.

For the Church in our day this is a recurrent temptation. We cannot turn back, and skid off the road. The road on which to continue is this: “The law is full, always in continuity, without being cut: just as the seed culminates in the flower, in the fruit. The road is that of freedom in the Holy Spirit who sets us free in a continuous discernment of God’s will, to make progress on this road without turning back”, and without skidding.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us life, to lead us onwards, to bring the law to full maturity, that law which sets us free.