



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026



*He is
Risen*



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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.”

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SERVED BY

Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor

Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:

Goodshepherdnj.com

Or email us at

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From the Pastor’s Desk, Easter Sunday April 5, 2026.

Today, our Lord Jesus has conquered death and He is Risen Alleluia. Thus, the opening chant of Easter Sunday is an extraordinary song. So simple, so surprising -- not at all the song we might expect to celebrate the joy of Christ rising from the tomb and his victory over death. Its melody is the soul of discretion: no soaring flights of fancy, just a serene restraint that conveys an atmosphere of intimacy and contemplation. It breathes the paschal mystery. The Feast of Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, is the central Feast of the Church. It is God’s definitive answer to death, that death has no power over Him, for he is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Nothing is stronger nor more powerful than He. Through the Resurrection, God has conquered both sin and death.

For this reason, our Easter faith, which opens us to the encounter with the risen Lord and prepares us to welcome him into our lives, is anything but a complacent settling into some sort of “religious reassurance.” On the contrary, Easter spurs us to action, to run like Mary Magdalene and the disciples; Peter and John. It invites us to have eyes that can “see beyond,” to perceive Jesus, the one who lives, as the God who reveals himself and makes himself present even today, who speaks to us, goes before us, surprises us. Like Mary Magdalene, every day we can experience losing the Lord, but every day we can also run to look for him again, with the certainty that he will allow himself to be found and will fill us with the light of his resurrection.

This is the message of Easter: we must look for him elsewhere. Christ is risen; he is alive! He is no longer a prisoner of death, he is no longer wrapped in the shroud, and therefore we cannot confine him to a fairy tale, we cannot make him a hero of the ancient world, or think of him as a statue in a museum! On the contrary, we must look for him and this is why we cannot remain stationary. We must take action, set out to look for him: look for him in life, look for him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, look for him in everyday business, look for him everywhere except in the tomb.

My dear brothers and sisters, even though that our Lord Jesus has triumphed over sin and death, it can also be that way with us. There are times when we may feel that a great stone blocks the door of our hearts, stifling life, extinguishing hope, imprisoning us in the tomb of our fears and regrets, and standing in the way of joy and hope from searching and looking for him. We encounter such “tombstones” on our journey through life in all the experiences and situations that rob us of enthusiasm and of the strength to persevere. We encounter them at times of sorrow: in the emptiness left by the death of our loved ones; we encounter them in the failures and fears that hold us back from accomplishing the good we mean to do. We encounter them in all the forms of self-absorption that stifle our impulses to generosity and sincere love, in the rubber walls, the real rubber walls, of selfishness and indifference that hold us back in the effort to build more just and humane cities and societies; we encounter them in all our aspirations for peace that are shattered by cruel hatred and the brutality of war. When we experience these disappointments, do we also have the sensation that all these dreams are doomed to failure, and that we too should ask ourselves in anguish: “Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?”

We must look for him without ceasing, in season and out of season. Because if he has risen from the dead, then he is present everywhere, he dwells among us, he hides himself and reveals himself even today in the sisters and brothers we meet along the way, in the most ordinary and unpredictable situations of our lives.

He is alive and is with us always, shedding the tears of those who suffer and adding to the beauty of life through the small acts of love carried out by each of us, comforting and supporting those marginalized.

The tomb is empty, He is Risen Alleluia! Happy Easter to all of you. Shalom!

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 Apr 04—Apr 11 ,2026

Saturday Apr 04	8:00PM	Thanksgiving for God's Tender Mercies' and Favors
Sunday Apr 05	9:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya
	11:00am	For the Protection of the Babies in the Womb and Their families
Monday Apr 06	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Cecil Bonnett
Tuesday Apr 07	7:00am	God's Guidance and Protection of Christopher Perry on his Birthday
Wednesday Apr 08	7:00am	Thanksgiving for Johana Lamyssaire
Thursday Apr 09	7:00am	God's Guidance and Protection of James Manzella
Friday Apr 10	7:00am	For Guidance and Protection of Andy Bonnett
Saturday Apr 11	8:30am	For the Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Cassata
	5:30pm	For God's Guidance and protection of Sandy 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

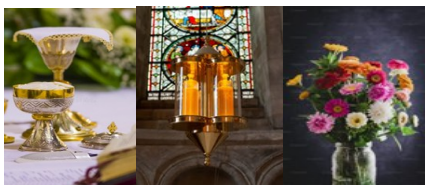
* Please advise if any names should be added or delete from the list

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		Apr 4—Apr 11, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ Not Available
Surplus (Deficit)		\$
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 60,253.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$No Change
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$

Minister Assignments Apr 11—Apr 12

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
3/11 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
3/12 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Denise Perry	Fr. Val
3/12 11: 00am	Children's Mass	Victoria Asoluka Bernadine Osuji Anthonia Ogbo	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday April 05
EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
Monday April 06
Tuesday April 07
Wednesday April 08
Thursday April 09
Friday April 10
Saturday April 11

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.

EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT OF EASTER

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

*St Peter's Basilica
Holy Saturday, 8 April 2023*

The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus' tomb. They make their way forward, bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their Beloved. Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and *awaits them in Galilee*. In their lives, those women experienced Easter as a Pasch, a *passage*. They pass from walking sorrowfully towards the tomb to running back with joy to the disciples to tell them not only that the Lord is risen, but also that they are to set out immediately to reach a destination, Galilee. There they will meet the Risen Lord. The rebirth of the disciples, the resurrection of their hearts, passes through Galilee. Let us enter into this journey of the disciples from the tomb to Galilee.

The Gospel tells us that the women went “to see the tomb” (*Mt 28:1*). They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that “nothing more can be done”, “things will never change”, “better to live for today”, since “there is no certainty about tomorrow”. If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or troubled by some problem, we also know the bitter taste of weariness and the absence of joy.

At times, we may simply feel weary about our daily routine, tired of taking risks in a cold, hard world where only the clever and the strong seem to get ahead. At other times, we may feel helpless and discouraged before the power of evil, the conflicts that tear relationships apart, the attitudes of calculation and indifference that seem to prevail in society, the cancer of corruption – there is a great deal of it, the spread of injustice, the icy winds of war. Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback. Then it is easy to yield to disillusionment, once the wellspring of hope has dried up. In these or similar situations – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, “Why?” That chain of “why”...

The women at Easter, however, do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the Gospel tells us, “they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples” (v. 8). They bring the news that will change life and history forever: Christ is risen! (v. 6). At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord's summons to the disciples to go to Galilee, for there they will see him (cf. v. 7). Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles (cf. *Mt 4:15*), to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind and to *set out for the future*. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to *return to the origins*, for it was precisely in Galilee that *everything began*. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the “memory of the future” bestowed on us by the Risen One.