



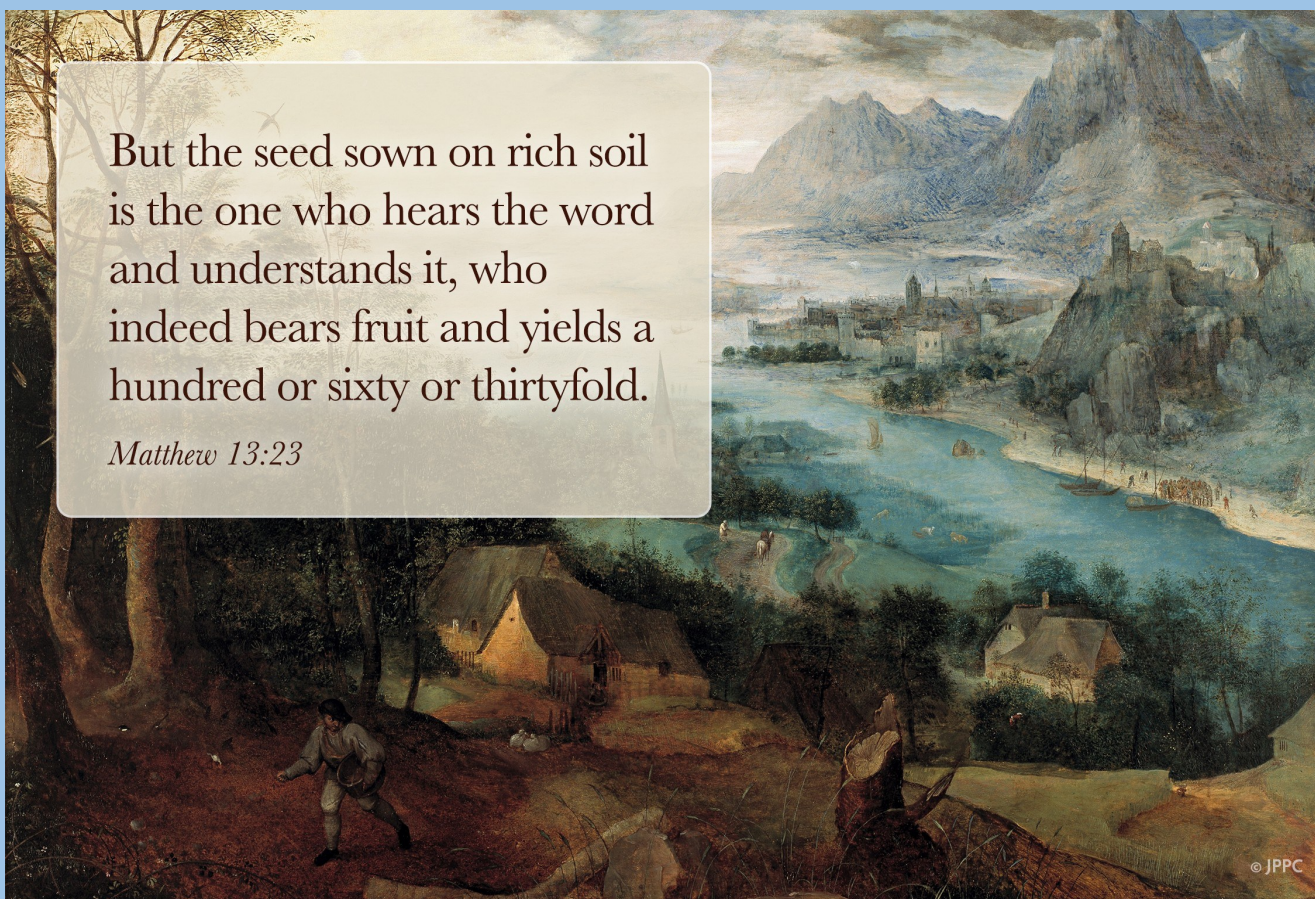
15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12 2026



But the seed sown on rich soil
is the one who hears the word
and understands it, who
indeed bears fruit and yields a
hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.

Matthew 13:23



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
gsirvington@comcast.net

From the Pastor's Corner 15th Sunday in Ord. Time July 12, 2026.

We remember last year when there was draught and no rain and farmers in our country were worried and complained that the sun have joked all their crops and even their animals were dying. We also remember in Easter Africa, the United Nation UNESCO asked the world to come to the aid of the people because there was no rain and farmers could not plant and what they planted, the heat from the sun destroyed all the crops and their animals too were dying. When it comes to facing failures and disappointments in life, the farmer in today's Gospel parable sounds a lot like many of us. We work hard, and only sometimes succeed. Most of the best things that we give to others are not by them well received. Most of what we want to plant in the lives of those around us doesn't "take"; it doesn't become rooted and permanently planted in their lives. In a time in our lives, all of us have to deal with failure, those areas where the best we've given to others comes up lacking, falling short of our hopes, our dreams, and our great expectations.

There are some biblical commentators who suggest that the parable of Jesus we just heard was autobiographical. That may well be true. Jesus certainly had to face a whole lot of apparent failure. He knew full well the pain of failure: When he was born, he had nowhere to lay his head. His own people rejected him, he was driven out of his hometown and his beloved city Jerusalem, made to carry the cross. His country men did not accept his message and He was betrayed and denied by his apostles Judas and Peter.

Some of the prophets prior to the birth of our Lord Jesus, Jeremiah and Isaiah also faced failures in their missions, they were not successful. They were laughed at, imprisoned. When I tried to communicate the message of the gospel, some people up to this point or time brush the messages aside, my remarks and messages all sound terribly dismal and discouraging. That's the nature of a prophet. But my point today is that we need to remember that Jesus did not let apparent failure stop Him. In His parable, Jesus went on to speak about a crop that yielded a harvest in successful amounts, some yields bringing spectacular success. Today's Gospel parable is not a dirge – it is a celebration; not of despair, it is a message of hope.

What we have to know is this, any Crisis, waves and turbulent lashing on us, has within them both danger and opportunity. But we have to try to stay in the boat with Jesus. True there are evils that surround us, but many of those evils are slowly being overcome, as the disciples were terrified, thinking that were going to perish and they woke up Jesus and he calmed down the storm and the waves in the sea. God is at work among us bringing good out of evil. God may sound unresponsive or asleep but we must remember that He is not asleep, we have to remember, that in the hands of God the slightest good can be multiplied to feed thousands if we would but hand our efforts into His care and providence.

You and I, like all good farmers who continually face floods and disasters of every sort, need to seriously engage ourselves in the enterprise of faith and hope, planting what we have, planting the best of what we have, and then letting God's sun, wind, and gentle rains do the rest. God's only-begotten Son, along with the gentle breath of His Holy Spirit, provide waters of grace to nourish and sustain what He has planted in the lives of those we love. The best years of our lives, and the best that we have given to others in them, or are giving right now, or will give in the future, will not be fruitless.

As Christians, we got to have faith and hope and not despair, let us do our own part to sow the seeds and do the planting, it is not you or I, who would make the seeds germinate and grow or to water it. It is only God who sends down rain and snow to water the earth and it does not return to him void without accomplishing the purpose God sent it.

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 July 11—July 18, 2026

Saturday 5:30PM For God's Guidance and Restored Health of Shelley King-Kamara
July 11

Sunday 9:00am For the Protection of the Babies in the Womb and Their Families

July 12 11:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Magnus Emeke Ibe

Monday 7:30am For God's Strength and Protection of Louis Herbert

July 13

Tuesday 7:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Joey Julien

July 14

Wednesday 7:30am For God's Blessing of Doris Omogihe on her 80th Birthday

July 15

Thursday 7:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Juliana Dike

July 16

Friday 7:30am For the Repose of the Soul of Luke & Christina Ngobili and Deceased Relatives

July 17

Saturday 8:30am For God's Guidance and Protection of Godfrey Osefanmen Omoghie on his Birthday

July 18 5:30pm For God's Guidance and protection of Nwokelo and Ibedu Families

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

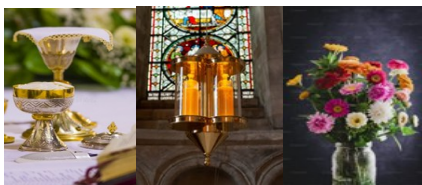
Hospital Privacy | Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/ pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the I office at (973)375-8568

Cathedral Letter Concepts our current envelope supplier will not be sending monthly envelopes for July in order to catch up production for its 3,000-plus customers.

Please use any left over envelopes you may have, there will be blank envelopes in the back of the church if you have no envelopes.

Our new envelope provider will be mailing our August offertory packages.

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		July 5, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$2,063.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,,437.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 93,300.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$286.564.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,985.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,515.00

Minister Assignments July18, July 19, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
07/18 5:30pm	Al Papp	Avenella Samaroo Nellie Bate Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
07/19 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
07/19 11: 00am	Chima Ogbo	Jerome Hule Anthonia Ogbo Perdro Burbano	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday July 12

Monday July 13

Saint Henry

Tuesday July 14

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Wednesday July 15

Saint Bonaventure

Thursday July 16

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Friday July 17

Saturday July 18

Saint Camillus de Lellis

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.

**CONTINUATION OF POPE LEO XIV ENCYCLICAL LETTER
ON MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS
CHAPTER ONE
A DYNAMIC APPROACH FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL**

21. Recognizing that God upholds the freedom of men and women in the unfolding of history, [the Second Vatican Council](#) affirmed the distinction between the ecclesial community and the political community, emphasizing that each must operate with full autonomy. The Church's presence in the world is also expressed through her relationship with civil society and public institutions. By engaging with these entities, the Church acknowledges the value of social and political realities and honors their specific responsibilities, supporting everything that fosters the wellbeing of individuals and strengthens the fabric of society. The Church does not claim to assume the functions belonging to the State. On the contrary, she esteems those who serve the common good, and she firmly acknowledges the responsibility that civil institutions hold within society. At the same time, the mission entrusted to the Church prompts her to address the real suffering of the men and women of our time. This closeness does not stem from an intent to supplant civil institutions, much less from an implicit criticism of their work. Rather, it stems from evangelical charity, which impels the Church to draw near to the wounds of humanity whenever they surface with greater severity. When the Church intervenes, she does so following the example of the Good Samaritan, with discretion and closeness, aware that what arises from urgent necessity cannot become the norm, nor replace the institutional responsibilities proper to the civil community.

22. Starting from this twofold acknowledgment — the autonomy of earthly realities and the distinction between ecclesiastical and political spheres of competence — allows for a clearer understanding of the direction that the [Second Vatican Council](#) set for the Church in her relationship with the world. [Gaudium et Spes](#) reminds us that "it is the task of the whole People of God, particularly of its pastors and theologians, to listen to and distinguish the many voices of our times and to interpret them in the light of God's word, in order that the revealed Truth may be more deeply penetrated, better understood and more suitably presented." [11] Listening to the "many voices" is no mere sociological exercise, but instead requires spiritual discernment. Guided by the Spirit, the People of God come to recognize in cultural and social transformations both the signs of the presence of Christ, who comes and guides history toward its fulfilment, and those aberrations that obscure his face. In this way, the essential core of revealed Truth is not altered, but made explicit and adopted as a living standard for guiding concrete choices, inspiring paths of personal and communal conversion, promoting structural reforms and supporting new forms of evangelical witness in public life. History is thus understood as one of the places in which the Church allows herself to be taught by the Spirit about the humanizing power of the Gospel; and she learns to develop her own teaching at the service of the dignity of every person and the good of all peoples.

The wisdom of the word of God in dialogue with the human sciences

23. The Church regards all who sincerely seek "truth, goodness and beauty" as companions on the journey, and considers them as "precious allies" [12] in defending the dignity of every person and in caring for creation. Adopting the pastoral approach of [the Second Vatican Council](#), which invites us to listen, discern and interpret the signs of the times, and enlightened by the wisdom of the word, the Church is not afraid to encounter human knowledge. Indeed, the word of God provides reliable standards for establishing paths of justice and opening ways of reconciliation and peace among peoples. When it comes to applying these standards to the complex situations of our time, the contributions of philosophy and of the human and social sciences is essential. These disciplines help us understand and analyze cultural, economic and political dynamics more deeply. [Saint John Paul II](#) recalled that the Church welcomes the contributions of the social sciences in order "to draw from them concrete insights that help her carry out her magisterial office." [13] A dialogue with such kinds of knowledge does not diminish the power of the Gospel. On the contrary, it makes it possible to identify with greater clarity what genuinely fosters the lives of individuals and communities. Following this perspective, [Pope Francis](#) emphasized that when dealing with many specific questions, the Church does not claim to offer "a definitive opinion," [14] but recognizes the importance of listening to scientific research and of encouraging a serious and honest debate among experts while welcoming a diversity of opinions.