



12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 21, 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

Christian Veliz Music Minister

For more information on our parish please go to:
Goodshepherdnj.com
 Or email us at
gsirvington@comcast.net

PASTOR’S CORNER ON 12TH SUNDAY IN O.T. JUNE 21TH 2026

We have now come back to what the liturgical year called ‘Ordinary Time, since the last two Sundays we celebrated the great Feasts of Holy Trinity Sunday and the Body and Blood of Christ-Corpus Christi. The designation ‘Ordinary’ might seem somewhat of an anti-climax after the richness of the great season of Lent-Easter. Yet here ordinary does not imply ‘common-place’ or ‘routine’. Instead, it refers to the fact that the everyday life of the Church and of the Christian is ordered to the worship of God. And there is nothing ‘ordinary’ about the life of the one who is alive in Jesus Christ. The liturgical color green is a visual reminder of the new life which the Triumph of Easter has made possible for us; a life which no winter can hold back. For the person alive in Christ Jesus, it is always summer! It’s Summer time.

Today’s first reading and Gospel remind us that as Christians, we will face difficulties and persecutions for the sake of our Faith: We will face discrimination, calumnies, detractions and even persecution, which is still happening worldwide. And in the face of these adversities, we encounter daily, we shall also feel the temptation to let ourselves be carried away by fear and to hide our condition as Christians, deterring us from the testimony that we must give. However, in today’s Gospel Our Lord assures us; “do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” (Mt 10: 26-33). Jesus cautions us to put our fear where it belongs; we should fear the loss of eternal life far more than we fear the threats of human beings, mortal and accountable like ourselves.

In today’s first reading, Jeremiah refuses to be intimidated by ‘terror from every side’. That doesn’t mean that the terror doesn’t get to him. Jeremiah has been abandoned by all his friends who now try to discredit him. He is thrown into prison for his preaching, and the army council threatens him with death if he doesn’t change his tune. But Jeremiah refuses to be bullied into agreement because he believes that “the Lord is with him like a mighty champion”. What keeps Jeremiah sane amidst all this persecution is the profound belief that God cares for him.

Also in today’s readings, they seem to point to two great truths of discipleship. The first is that we are deeply loved. Our creator has counted all the hairs on our heads, and we are infinitely precious to him. This we know, as today’s psalm proclaims, that the Lord hears us when we call out to him, ‘and his own who are in bonds he spurns not’. And this leads us to the second truth; sometimes we will be “in bonds”. Being a follower of Christ does not entitle us to comfort, luxury and safety; in fact, sometimes it will lead us in the opposite direction. Jesus warns the twelve apostles before he sends them out on mission that they will very likely be met with derision, even stating; “You will be hated by all because of my name’ (Mt 10:22). Even if they face hatred and trials, they are to fear no one and nothing, for their souls are protected by the God of everlasting life.

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 20, June 27, 2026

Saturday	5:30PM	For God's Guidance Protection and Health on the Fathers of Good Shepherd Parish
June 20		
Sunday	9:00am	For God's Guidance Protection and Health on the Fathers of Good Shepherd Parish
June 21	11:00am	For God's Guidance Protection and Health on the Fathers of Good Shepherd Parish
Monday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Tatyrek
June 22		
Tuesday	7:00am	For God's Help and Good Health for Louis Herbert
June 23		
Wednesday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection on the Children of Good Shepherd Parish
June 24		
Thursday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Elaine Hubbert
June 25		
Friday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Christopher Perry
June 26		
Saturday	8:30am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Avenella Samaroo
June 27	5:30pm	God's Blessing's on the Birthday of Brenda Perry

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 Nezlck	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

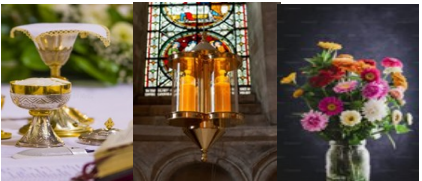
Ministries: If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please call the rectory at 975-375-8568 or fill out the Information below and place in the collection basket.

Name : _____

Telephone #: _____

Lector _____ Eucharistic Minister _____

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		June 14, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 1,712.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,788.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 87,818.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$292,046.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$1,941.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,559.00

Minister Assignments June 27—June 28, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
06/27 5:30pm	Al Papp	Denise Perry Avenella Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
06/28 9:00AM	Paulette Anderson-Spence	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie Lorita	Fr. Val
06/28 11:00am	Jude Ogbo	Anthonia Ogbo Victoria Asoluka Bernadine Osuji	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday June 21
FATHER'S DAY
1st DAY OF SUMMER
Monday June 22
Saint Paulinus of Nola
Saints John Fisher and Thomas More
Tuesday June 23
Wednesday June 24
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Thursday June 25
Friday June 26
Saturday June 27
Saint Cyril of Alexandria
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.

Part II—POPE LEO XIV ON MAGNIFA HUMANITAS INTRODUCTION CONTINUES.

Two biblical images

7. In order to answer these questions and discern how to navigate responsibly the era of AI, I would like to bring to mind two scenes from the Bible: the construction of the Tower of Babel (cf. *Gen* 11:1-9) and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (cf. *Neh* 2–6). The story of Babel appears in the Book of Genesis, at the origins of humanity, immediately after the genealogies of Noah's sons. After settling in a plain in the land of Shinar, the people decided to build a city and a tower "with its top in the heavens" (*Gen* 11:4). Fearing being scattered across the earth, they sought to guarantee stability and power for themselves, and above all to "make a name" for themselves. It was an impressive feat: a single language, a single technology, a single direction. However, the project concealed a profound danger. It was a project conceived without reference to God, supported by a uniformity that eliminated diversity and that chose homogenization over communion. When a city is built on pride and the claim to self-sufficiency, communication breaks down, languages are confused and people no longer understand each other. The result is not unity, but dispersion. Babel thus reveals the limits of any effort that, however grandiose, arises from self-affirmation, sacrifices human dignity for efficiency and aspires to reach heaven without God's blessing.

8. The Book of Nehemiah, in turn, opens at a time of great vulnerability in the history of ancient Israel. After the Babylonian exile, a portion of the people returned to Jerusalem, but the city was still in ruins, the walls collapsed and the gates burned (cf. *Neh* 1–2). Nehemiah, a Jew in the service of the Persian King Artaxerxes, received news of the disastrous state of his ancestral city. Before taking action, he fasted, prayed and interceded for the people. He then asked the king for permission to return to Jerusalem and, upon arriving, examined the destroyed areas in silence. He did not impose solutions from above. He convened the families, assigned each of them a section of the wall to rebuild, listened to their concerns, coordinated their efforts and addressed any opposition. The narrative shows how the city is reborn, not through the initiative of one man, but through the shared responsibility of all: men, women, priests, artisans, heads of households and young people all play a part. It is an undertaking with God at the center, which rebuilds relationships before rebuilding with stones. Thus, ancient Jerusalem rediscovers a common language — not one of uniformity, but one of communion, namely the harmony that arises when all persons assume their own role and recognize that their strength comes from the Lord.

9. In light of these two images, the Holy Spirit challenges us today regarding our relationship with technology and the ongoing digital revolution. Scientific discoveries are talents entrusted to humanity so that they may bear fruit (cf. *Mt* 25:14-30). Technology has the power to heal, connect, educate and protect our common home; but it can also divide, exclude and generate new forms of injustice. In the abstract, technology in and of itself is not a solution to humanity's problems, just as it is not inherently evil. In practice, however, technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate and use it. Therefore, the primary choice is not between a "yes" or "no" to technology, but rather between constructing Babel or rebuilding Jerusalem; between a power that claims to dominate the heavens and a people who work together in the presence of God to rebuild the walls of fraternal coexistence.

10. We must, then, avoid the "Babel syndrome," namely the idolatry of profit that sacrifices the weak, a uniformity that neutralizes differences, and the pretense that a single language — even a digital one — can translate everything, including the mystery of the person, into data and performance. The risk of dehumanization — of building a future that excludes God and reduces the other to a means — is an ancient and ever-new temptation that today takes on a technical guise. Instead, let us choose the "way of Nehemiah," which highlights the importance of working together to make the City of God a safe place for returning exiles. Rebuilding today means recognizing that, precisely from the plurality of voices and visions which, even though they sometimes remind us of the confusion caused by the diversity of spoken languages, a bright possibility emerges. Indeed, this is the possibility of building together, of transforming diversity into a resource and of making listening and dialogue the common ground upon which to cultivate justice and fraternity. Within this shared task, Christians discover their unique role of guiding actions toward God so that, in his light, pluralism does not dissipate into disorder, but instead, through the practice of synodality, it becomes the space in which humanity rediscovers its solid foundations and its final end. In the Book of Revelation, John sees the New Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven from God" (*Rev* 21:2) as a gift for all humanity. And this vision of grace is an invitation for us Christians to work together in order to foster a peaceful, just and dignified life in community within today's "cities."