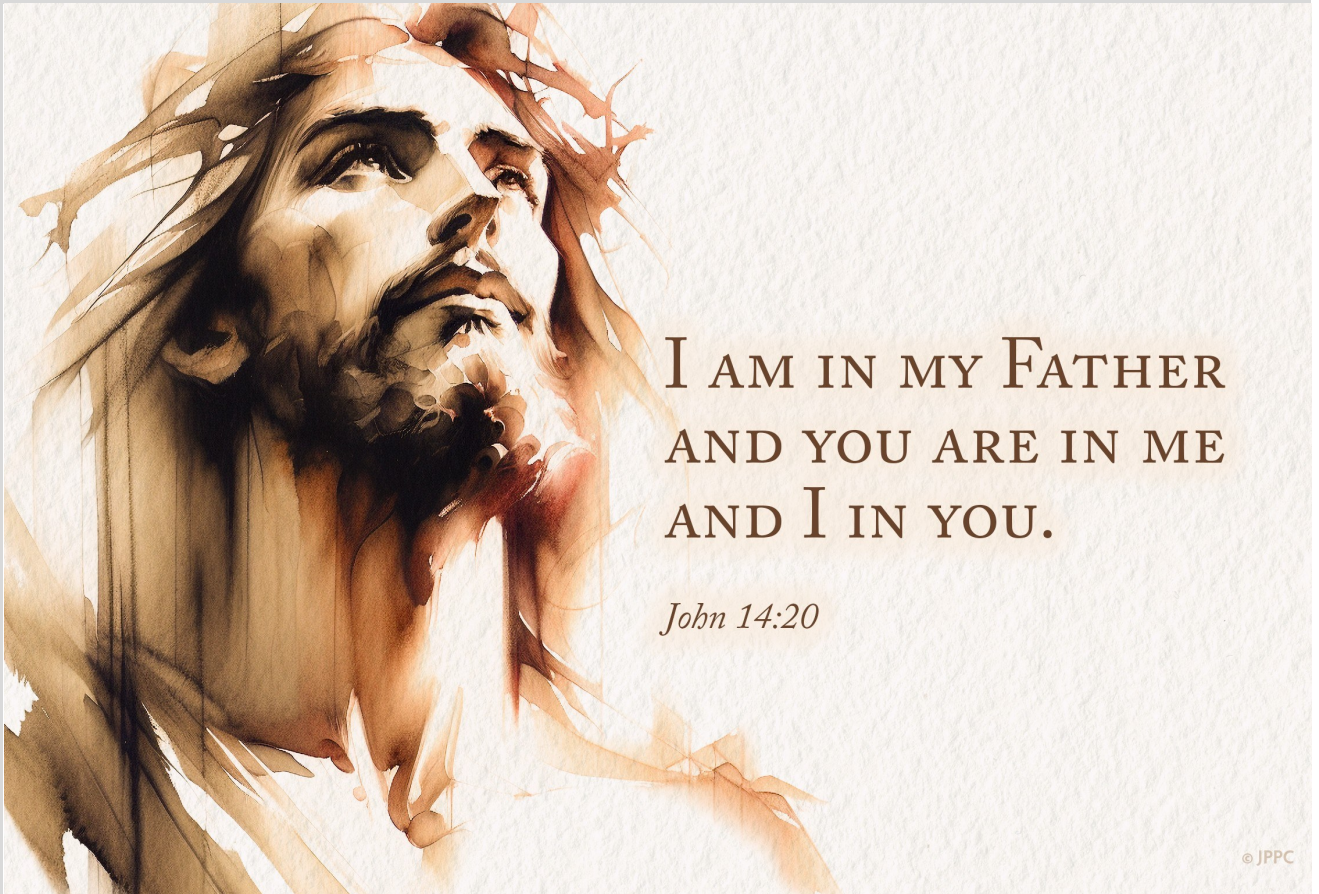




6th Sunday Of EASTER

May 10, 2026



I AM IN MY FATHER
AND YOU ARE IN ME
AND I IN YOU.

John 14:20

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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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Website: 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
 Or email us at
 gsirvington@comcast.net

The Pastor's Reflection on 6th Sunday of Easter May 10, 2026

In today's Sunday readings especially the Gospel, we come to our Lord Jesus' Farewell Discourse, trying to fortified, to invigorate his Apostles and to remove the fear from them because of his impending departure and he said to them *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (Joh 14, 15). This is a simple and straight forward statement of Jesus to his Apostles, to observe his commandments. *Observing the Commandments*: Observing the commandments is a rather straightforward thing. We presumably know what they are and what they entail. They tell us what we should do and what we should not do. And if we go against them, then we are sinning. And in the manner or degree that we sin, that is the manner or measure in which we do not love Jesus. There is no getting around this. *No Picking and Choosing*:

There is no way of getting around it, it is a *Mandatum*, a commandment of love, so there is no way we can say let choose this and leave this: "no picking and choosing," as some of us say, this teaching is very difficult to understand and live. To love Jesus, you must love him "in spirit and in truth." We have met people who say, "Oh, I'm Catholic, but I don't agree with what the Catholic Church says about birth control or abortion or euthanasia," after all, at the end God will not ask you if you're a Catholic or not.

"God is love." This simple statement is packed with meaning. It does not say merely that God has love or that God is loving. God is the very definition of love. Therefore, if we want to know what love is we must look to Him and come to know Him. Our society today throws around the word "love" all the time. We use it for everything from "I love ice cream" to "I love chocolate" to "I love my dog or cat" to "I love you (spouse, child, friend, etc.)." Too often we mistake love for merely a feeling. We "love" something because it makes us feel good. But love goes beyond a fleeting feeling. True love must always be relational. I can say, "I love ice cream," because it makes me feel good, but I can never enter into a relationship with ice cream! The love that we're called to in today's second reading is a self-giving love. We see the supreme example of this true love in Jesus. God's love led to self-giving action. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. He didn't have to do that; but He chose to out of love! Therefore, if we want to know what love is, we should look to the cross. Through knowing Jesus, let us emulate that self-giving love to the world.

Today's gospel reading records some of Jesus' last words to His closest followers before the crucifixion. His primary message is the same one we heard in the second reading: "love one another." We have already seen that love is more than a feeling. It is self-giving and active. When Jesus calls us to love one another in the Church, He is giving us a high calling that is not easy. How can we do this? Well, we can't on our own. It is only the love of God working in us that makes it possible for us to truly love. Jesus said, "Remain in my love." This is the key. We must be full of Jesus' love to have any love to give to others. How do we remain in His love? By keeping His commandments. We manifest God's love best when we are in right relationship with God. Sin (i.e. breaking the commandments) separates us from God and can prevent, by our own choice, the love of God from effectively working in and through us. But when we obey God's commandments and align our wills with His will, then we can truly love one another.

The Gospel brings us to focus on the gift of the Spirit, the Advocate that Jesus sends to us. The word used here in Greek is "paraclete," which can be translated as Helper, Intercessor, Comforter, Advocate, Paraclete. This Spirit helps us understand what we believe, draws us into the truth of Jesus, is a link to God by being God and yet with us, a Spirit that comforts us in all our affliction.

As our faith comes more and more to life within us, we can call on the Spirit to help us continue to grow. In these days leading up to the Solemnity of Pentecost, the feast of the sending of the Holy Spirit upon us, we need to keep asking for this Spirit to be poured out on us and on all who believe. Let us then, keep the commandment of our Lord Jesus by loving Him and our neighbor and ask him to send us the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth and transform our fragile world that has been engulfed with the virus of Selfish indifference, oppression, marginalization and wars.

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 9, - May 16, 2026

Saturday 5:00PM For God's Guidance and Strength of Denise Perry
May 09

Sunday 9:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Tristen Brevik
May 10 11:00am For the Protection of the Babies in the Womb and Their Families

Monday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Sandi Mosley
May 11

Tuesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Judith Kuzma
May 12

Wednesday 7:00am For God's Guidance and Protection of Emily Chapman
May 13

Thursday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Antonio Annunziata
May 14

Friday 7:00am For the Repose of the Soul of Charette Horning
May 15

Saturday 8:30am For God's Love and Protection of the people of Good Shepherd Parish
May 16 5:30pm For the Repose of the Soul of Peter Oge Nwokelo

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

Report Financial Misconduct Confidentially

*If you suspect financial misconduct, use **EthicsPoint**, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues and promote positive parish, school, and workplace environments. Visit www.rcan.org for the hotline and reporting link.*

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 _____

| Collection Report | | May 03, 2026 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Weekly Target | | \$6,500.00 |
| Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy) | | \$ 1,900.00 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | | \$ 4,600.00 |
| Fiscal Year to Date | | |
| Budget: | | \$379,864.00 |
| Actual: | | \$ 76,504.00 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | | \$303,340.00 |
| Rolling 4 Week Averages | | |
| Average Collection: | | \$1,575.00 |
| Average Surplus (Deficit) | | \$4,925.00 |

Minister Assignments May 16 – May 17, 2026

| Saturday Sunday | Lectors | Eucharistic Ministers | Presiding |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| 05/16 5:30pm | Al Papp | Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks | Fr. Val |
| 05/17 9:00AM | TBD | Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie | Fr. Val |
| 05/17 11: 00am | Dorothy Nwanonyiri | Jerome Hule Janet Drewes Luer Drewes | Fr. Val |

GSP EVENT CALENDER

| |
|---|
| Sunday May 10 |
| MOTHER'S DAY |
| Monday May 11 |
| Tuesday May 12 |
| Saint Nereus and Achilleus Saint Pancras |
| Wednesday May 13 |
| Our Lady of Fatima |
| Thursday May 14 |
| Saint Matthias, Apostle |
| Friday May 15 |
| Saint Isidore |
| Saturday May 16 |

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.

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF POPE LEO XIV
TO ALGERIA, CAMEROON, ANGOLA AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA

(13–23 April 2026)

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

Esplanade of Saurimo (Saurimo)

Monday, 20 April 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

In every part of the world, the Church lives as a people who walk as disciples of Christ, our brother and Redeemer. He, the Risen One, illumines for us the path to the Father and with the strength of the Spirit he sanctifies us so that we may transform our way of life in conformity with his love. This is the Good News, the Gospel that courses through our veins like blood, sustaining us on the journey. A journey that has brought me here with you today! In the joy and beauty of our gathering, united in the name of Jesus, let us listen with open hearts to the Word of salvation for it helps us reflect on the motive and purpose for which we follow the Lord.

Indeed, when the Son of God became man, he performed striking miracles in order to manifest the will of the Father: he made light shine in the darkness by giving sight to the blind, he gave a voice to the oppressed by loosening the tongues of the mute, he slaked our thirst for justice by multiplying bread for the poor and weak. Anyone who heard about these works set out in search of Jesus. At the same time, the Lord looks into our heart and asks us whether we seek him out of gratitude or for our own self-interest, with calculation or with love. In fact, he said to those who were following him: “You are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves” (*Jn 6:26*). His words reveal the designs of those who do not want to encounter a person, but want to consume things. The crowd sees Jesus as means to an end, a provider of services. If he had not given them something to eat, his actions and teachings would not have interested them.

This happens when genuine faith is replaced with superstitious practices, in which God becomes an idol that is sought only when it is advantageous to us and only for as long as it is. Even the most beautiful gifts of the Lord, which are always for the care of his people, become a pretext, a prize or a bargaining chip, and are misinterpreted by those who receive them. The Gospel account, then, helps us to understand that there are erroneous motives for seeking Christ, particularly when he is considered to be a *guru* or a good luck charm. Even the motivation of the crowd is inadequate: they were not seeking a teacher whom they love, but a leader to applaud for their own advantage.

How different is Jesus’ attitude toward us. Yet, he does not reject this insincere search, but encourages its conversion. He does not dismiss the crowd, but invites everyone to examine what stirs in our hearts. Christ calls us to freedom: he does not want servants or clients, rather he seeks brothers and sisters to whom he can totally dedicate himself. To respond with faith to this love, it is not enough to hear Jesus speak: one must accept the meaning of his words. Neither is it enough to see what Jesus does: one must follow and imitate him. When in the sign of shared bread we see the will of the Savior, who gives himself for us, only then do we draw closer to a true encounter with Jesus, which become discipleship, mission and service.

The admonition that the Lord directs to the crowd is thus transformed into an invitation: “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life” (*Jn 6:27*). With these words, Christ expresses his true gift to us: he does not call us to be disinterested in our daily bread, which he multiplies in abundance and teaches us to ask for in prayer. On the contrary, he teaches us the correct way to search for the bread of life, food which sustains us forever. The desire of the crowd receives a much greater and more surprising response: Jesus does not give us food that passes away, but bread that lasts because it is the food of eternal life.

His gift sheds light on our current situation. We can see today how the hope of many people is frustrated by violence, exploited by the overbearing and defrauded by the rich. Consequently, when injustice corrupts hearts, the bread of all becomes the possession of a few. In the face of these evils, Christ hears the cry of the people and renews our history by lifting us up from every fall, comforting us in every suffering and encouraging us in our mission. Just as the Eucharist is the living bread that he never ceases to give us, so too his history knows no end. For this reason, the risen One opens up our lives through the power of his Spirit and removes the end of our history, that is death. Christ lives! He is our Redeemer. This is the Gospel that we share, making all the people of the earth our brothers and sisters. This is the proclamation that transforms sin into forgiveness. This is the faith that saves life!

The Easter witness, therefore, certainly pertains to Christ, the crucified one who is risen, but it also pertains even to us because in him the proclamation of our resurrection finds its voice. We did not come into the world to die. We were not born to become slaves either to the corruption of the flesh or that of the soul: every form of oppression, violence, exploitation and dishonesty negates the resurrection of Christ, the supreme gift of our freedom. This liberation from death, in fact, does not happen only at the end of our days, but every day of our lives. What must we do to welcome such a gift? The Gospel itself teaches us: “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent” (*Jn 6:29*). Yes, let us believe! Today, let us say it together with strength and with gratitude to you, Lord Jesus. We want to follow you and serve you in our neighbor: your word is our rule of life, the measure of truth...

Dear friends, the witness of the martyrs and of the saints encourages us and pushes us onto a path of hope, reconciliation and peace, along which the gift of God becomes the responsibility of the head of the household, in the Christian community, in civil society. Travelling together, in the light of the Gospel, the Church in Angola grows according to the spiritual fruitfulness that begins from the Eucharist and continues in the integral care of each person and of the entire people. In particular, the vitality of the vocations that you experience is a sign that you are responding to the Lord’s gift, which is always abundant for those who welcome it with pure hearts. Thanks to the Bread of Life, which we share today, we can continue on the journey of the whole Church, which has as its destination the Kingdom of God, whose light is faith and whose lifeblood is charity.