



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 17, 2026



*Receive the
Holy Spirit*

© JPPC

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 Reflection of the Feast of Ascension. 2026

Today the Holy Mother the Church celebrates the Feast of Ascension of Christ into heaven. Even though it was last Thursday, the Catholic Bishops asked it be celebrated on Sunday for full participation. In some dioceses in this country, the feast was celebrated on Thursday. For the past six weeks, we have been celebrating Christ victory over death, and his resurrection, which brings new life and hope to us. Within the last two Sundays, we heard his parting words of encouragements, farewell speeches, hope and promises to the Apostles. Today, we have come to celebrate his victorious return into heaven. As the psalmist said: *"God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast,"*. The Ascension of Christ into heaven is one of the articles of faith that we profess on a daily basis.

In the Catholic Church’s Catechism, the holy mother Church affirms we believe. One of the contents of that which we believe is that Jesus "... ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and dead". This article of faith is a grand testimony of truth, a strong confirmation that Christ rose from the dead; that his body was neither subjected to the belly of the earth nor see corruption. On this day, we celebrate and testify that the risen Christ, in the sight of his apostles ascended bodily into heaven.

When Luke tells us in our first reading today that Jesus *'was lifted up, while they [the disciples] looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight'*(Acts 1:9), he is speaking metaphorically to convey the mystery of Jesus’ return to the Father. What we are celebrating today is not some mind-boggling physical feat never done before. It is, rather, in the words of Scripture Scholar, Tom Wright, *'the fact that Jesus has gone ahead of us into God’s space, God’s new world, and is already ruling this present world as its Lord, and also interceding for us at the Fathers’ right hand.* In our second reading, Paul explains the meaning of the Ascension when he tells us that God *'has put all things under his [Jesus’] feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'*(Eph 1:22-23).

The significance of the Ascension for the disciples of Jesus is brought out in our Gospel reading from Matthew. On a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had begun his ministry, he now addresses his disciples for the last time and launches a new phase of his Kingdom mission. He begins by stating that *'all authority in heaven and on earth'*(Mt 28:18) has been given to him. Then, on the basis of this authority, he commissions his disciples to *'make disciples of all nations'*(Mt 28:19), and assures them that he will be with them always, *'until the end of time'*(Mt 28:20).

As Lord of the universe, the Risen Jesus commissions his disciples to be his instruments in extending his life-giving ministry to the peoples of all nations. During his earthly life, Jesus’ ministry was limited primarily to the Jewish people. Now its boundaries are expanded to include all humanity. His commission to his disciples has universal scope. Jesus does not command his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples, although this is implied. What he commands them to do is to *'make disciples of all As Lord of the universe, the Risen Jesus commissions his disciples to be his instruments in extending his life-giving ministry to the peoples of all nations.*

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Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus’ absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us.

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 16, - May 23, 2026

Saturday	5:00PM	For the Repose of the Soul of peter Oge Nwokelo
May 16		
Sunday	9:00am	For God's Guidance and Strength of Fr. Valentine Ugwuanya
May 17	11:00am	For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
Monday	7:00am	For God's Guidance and Protection of Teran Morris
May 17		
Tuesday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Phyllis Hailes
May 19		
Wednesday	7:00am	For Guidance and protection of Violet Snipes-Azzi
May 20		
Thursday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Janet Adibe
May 21		
Friday	7:00am	For the Repose of the Soul of Janet Adibe
May 22		
Saturday	8:30am	For the People of Good Shepherd Parish
May 23	5:30pm	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Darrell Williams

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 Nezllick	Patrick Roylance	Graylan Banks	Aloysius Patrick Osuji	Avenelle Samaroo	

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

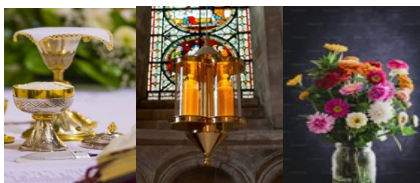
Hospital Privacy | Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/ pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the I office at (973)375-8568

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The Annual Appeal is ongoing, your contributions to the appeal will help so many lives.

Breaking Bread Covers:
 Do you have an event you would like to acknowledge or a remembrance of a person. You can have an announcement on the cover of a Breaking Bread for \$20.00 Please complete the flyer on the ledges in the back of the church.

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.



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 #: _____

Collection Report		May 10, 2026
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$2,029.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 4,471.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$379,864.00
Actual:		\$ 78,533.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$301,331.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,007.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$4,493.00

Minister Assignments May 23 – May 24, 2026

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Presiding
05/23 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Denise Perry Avenelle Samaroo Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
05/24 9:00AM	TBD	Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
05/24 11: 00am	Chima Ogbo	Victoria Asoluka Bernadine Osuji Pedro Burbano	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER

Sunday May 17
ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Monday May 18
Saint Jonh 1
Tuesday May 19
Wednesday May 20
Saint Bernadine of Siena
Thursday May 21
Saint Christopher Magallanes and Companions
Friday May 22
Saint Rita Cascia
Saturday May 23

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.

ASCENSION THURS, SUNDAY MAY 17, 26.

“Man, henceforth finds room in God forever”

**On the feast of the Ascension in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI visited
Cassino and Montecassino.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1: 8). With these words, Jesus took his leave of the Apostles, as we heard in the First Reading. Immediately afterwards the sacred Author adds that "as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1: 9).

Thus, Christ's Ascension means in the first place the enthronement of the Crucified and Risen Son of Man, the manifestation of God's kingship over the world.

In his homily for the Ascension, the Holy Father explored the deeper meaning of the mystery celebrated on this day. This is the mystery of the Ascension that we are celebrating today. But what do the Bible and the Liturgy wish to tell us by saying that Jesus "was lifted up"? We cannot understand the meaning of these words from a single text or from a single book of the New Testament but rather by listening attentively to the whole of Sacred Scripture. In fact, the verb "to lift up" was originally used in the Old Testament and refers to royal enthronement. Thus, Christ's Ascension means in the first place the enthronement of the Crucified and Risen Son of Man, the manifestation of God's kingship over the world.

However, there is an even deeper meaning that is not immediately perceptible. In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles, it is said first that Jesus was "lifted up" (v. 9) and then it says "taken up" (v. 11). The event is not described as a journey to on high but rather as an action of the power of God who introduces Jesus into the space of closeness to the Divine. The presence of the cloud that "took him out of their sight" (v. 9), recalls a very ancient image of Old Testament theology and integrates the account of the Ascension into the history of God with Israel, from the cloud of Sinai and above the tent of the Covenant in the desert, to the luminous cloud on the mountain of the Transfiguration.

To present the Lord wrapped in clouds calls to mind once and for all the same mystery expressed in the symbolism of the phrase, "seated at the right hand of God". In Christ ascended into Heaven, the human being has entered into intimacy with God in a new and unheard-of way; man henceforth finds room in God for ever.

"Heaven": this word Heaven does not indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime: it indicates Christ himself, the divine Person who welcomes humanity fully and for- ever, the One in whom God and man are inseparably united forever. Man's being in God, this is Heaven. And we draw close to Heaven, indeed, we enter Heaven to the extent that we draw close to Jesus and enter into communion with him. For this reason, today's Solemnity of the Ascension invites us to be in profound communion with the dead and Risen Jesus, invisibly present in the life of each one of us.