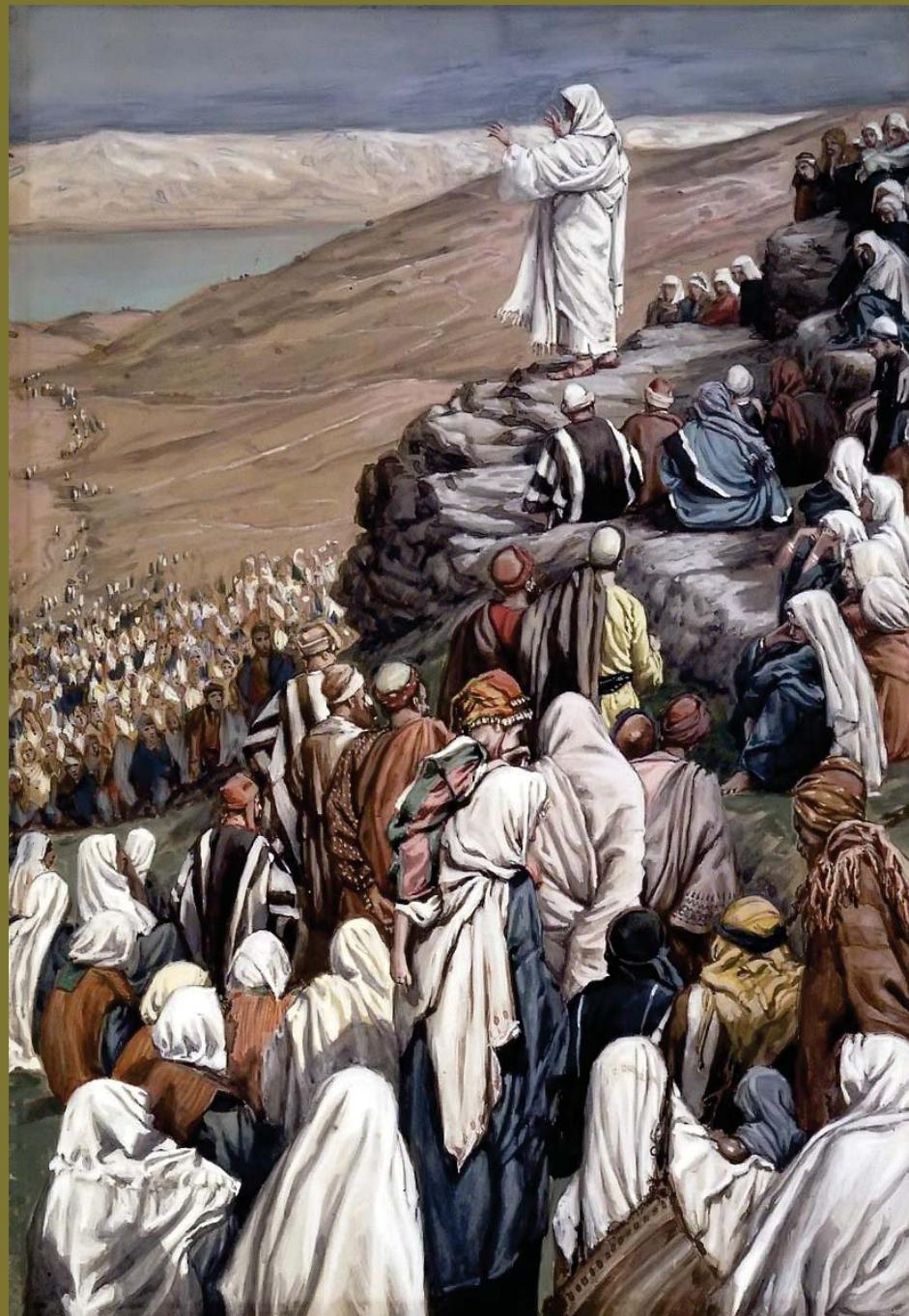


5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Welcome to Good Shepherd Parish

February 8, 2026



*The Sermon of the Beatitudes* by James Tissot

Jesus said to his disciples:

.... “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.”    Matthew 5: 15

**Parish Office: (508) 650—3545****99 Main Street, Wayland, MA****GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH VISION STATEMENT**

Good Shepherd Parish strives to be a vibrant, welcoming community where every person can experience the Father's love. Through the Gospel proclamation, prayer, and joyous sacramental celebration, Good Shepherd Parish will inspire parishioners to discern and live out their vocations and to actively evangelize the world. As we bear witness to the Risen Christ, Our Lord and Savior, we aspire to serve our parish community. We will seek to welcome home the new, the lost, and the disheartened by using the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit..

**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Roman Catholic community of Good Shepherd Parish, strive to be a living sign of Christ's love in and for the world. In response to our Baptismal call, nourished by the Eucharist and guided by the values of the Second Vatican Council, we seek to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by welcoming, supporting and guiding all through prayer, sacramental celebration, service and education.

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
Fr. Laurence "Ren" Tocci  
Ext. 14  
[frren@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:frren@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Senior Priest in Residence:**  
Rev. Austin H. Fleming, M.A.  
[fraustin@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:fraustin@goodshepherdwayland.org)  
Fr. Fleming's daily blog:  
[ConcordPastor.blogspot.com](http://ConcordPastor.blogspot.com)

**Permanent Deacon:**  
Deacon Colm McGarry Ext. 22  
**Director of Youth Ministry**  
[cmcgarry@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:cmcgarry@goodshepherdwayland.org)  
[youthministrywayland@gmail.com](mailto:youthministrywayland@gmail.com)

**Finance & Operations Manager :**  
Liliana Lucas Ext. 18  
[llucas@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:llucas@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Faith Formation Director (K-5):**  
Debora S. Robertson Ext.12  
[dsparani@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:dsparani@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Music Director**  
Bethany Ratcliff Ext. 33  
[musicdirector@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:musicdirector@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Director of My Brother's Table:**  
Laurie Hojlo  
[happyhojlos@verizon.net](mailto:happyhojlos@verizon.net)

**Communications & Sacramental Records:**  
Kat Holmstrom Ext. 13  
[kholmstrom@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:kholmstrom@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Vina Sousa Ext. 10  
[vsousa@goodshepherdwayland.org](mailto:vsousa@goodshepherdwayland.org)

**Facilities Staff:**  
Steve McCarthy & Julio Pazmino Ext. 18

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday—Thursday  
9 AM—3 PM  
Friday 9 AM—12 PM



ST. ANN CHURCH, 134 COCHITUATE RD, WAYLAND, MA



ST. ZEPHERIN CHURCH, 99 MAIN ST, WAYLAND, MA

**Mass Times**

Saturday, 4:00 PM St. Ann  
Sunday, 8:30 AM St. Zepherin  
Sunday, 10:30 AM St. Ann  
Sunday, 5:30 PM St. Zepherin

**Confession**

Saturday, 3:00 –3:45 PM  
St. Ann  
(or by appointment)

**Weekday Masses**

Monday—Tuesday  
9:00 AM St. Ann  
Wednesday—Friday  
9:00 AM St. Zepherin

**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
4:00 PM  
VARKEY VATTAPPARA

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
8:30 AM  
PEOPLE OF  
GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

10:30 AM  
MARY BYRON RODKEY

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
9:00 AM  
MILLIE CHOINSKI &  
RUTH (CHOINSKI) FORNES

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
9:00 AM  
EILEEN BIRCH

**Parish Calendar**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
BIBLE STUDY WITH PHEME  
10:00 AM  
PARISH CENTER

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
MEN'S GROUP (HEART TO HEART)  
6:30 PM  
ST. ANN'S LIBRARY

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
(MOVED FROM FEB. 5)  
MY BROTHER'S TABLE  
FOOD DISTRIBUTION  
7:00 AM—11:00 AM  
ST. ANN'S HALL

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
7:00 PM—8:00 PM  
ST. ZEPHERIN

### *The Evangelical Counsels and the Beatitudes (Part III) . . .*

I'm always puzzled whenever I pass someone (usually a teenager) who's wearing a T-shirt or sweatshirt emblazoned with a single word—OBEY. How much different that is from what I would have had as a slogan on my shirts when I was in high school! I finally did a little research into the matter and discovered that it's actually a brand name of clothing started by a former street artist whose fashion lines are now sold at Nordstrom. (An interesting example of how last week's rebel becomes yesterday's mainstreamer and today's *haute couture* entrepreneur.)

Obedience isn't a very popular concept for us these days, not since western society has surrendered itself to cultural relativism and radical individualism. There's a knee-jerk revulsion we have at the notion of obedience, as if obduracy were its own virtue. We've become a culture of Marlon Brando from the movie *The Wild One*: when Mary Murphy asks him what he's rebelling against, he replies "Whadda ya got?" The actual value in question is irrelevant; only the deviation from it matters. Groucho Marx puts it somewhat differently in a song from *Horsefeathers*: "No matter what it is or who commenced it/I'm against it."

But this is to get obedience wrong. It's a child's understanding of obedience, not the evangelical counsel of obedience.

We can see the difference in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes Jesus proclaims, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." He doesn't seem to be advocating timidity or an effete temperament; after all, He identifies Himself as being "meek and humble of heart," and He certainly was no shrinking violet. But He was obedient to the Father's will.

The root of the word *obey*, in Latin, means "to listen to." I think this is key to understanding the evangelical counsel. It's about listening to and coming to understand the vision of the one in authority. But it's a legitimate authority: an authority freely acknowledged and embraced by the one bound by obedience—bound by personal choice. At the Last Supper Jesus informs His disciples, "I no longer call you slaves because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father." But this explanation comes immediately after He tells them, "you are my friends if you do what I command you." Obedience here means the recognition of a mutual purpose, and that each party has a particular responsibility in fulfilling that purpose.

Evangelical obedience is the humility to grasp that my immediate or self-interested desires are of minor importance as compared to a chosen and shared mission. It's to harness one's drives and direct them toward a cooperative goal that one shares with others. This meekness is not the docility of weakness, but the supple will of one who is all in on the purpose (s)he has dedicated him-/herself to. It's the acceptance of a responsibility, and a necessary trait for the readiness to sacrifice for the sake of a higher good. Fundamentally, it's about trust. It's patterned after our Lord Jesus Christ Himself,

whose life-sustenance came from doing His Father's will.

Ideally, the trust between the parties allows for inter-communication. When I was at seminary, one of my classmates was a Benedictine monk from St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. He had approached his abbot on three separate occasions during his decades-long time in the abbey, requesting to apply to seminary, believing that God was calling him to be a priest. Three times the abbot turned him down, and three times my friend dutifully went about his appointed tasks. After time had passed, he determined that he would broach the subject with his abbot one last time, resolving in his mind that if he were rejected this time, he would assume it wasn't God's will that he become a priest. He sat down and made his case to the abbot, who replied, "If I say No this time, I'd be saying No to the Holy Spirit." Brother Emmanuel was the first guy in my class to be ordained to the priesthood.

This is the evangelical counsel of obedience at its finest. Emmanuel was not afraid to continue to speak with his abbot about what he felt to be his vocation; but he accepted the response each time. For his part, the abbot clearly had listened earnestly to my friend's request, hearing him out as he made his case, and each time remaining genuinely open to the possibility. How easy it would have been for him—especially that fourth time—to have closed his mind, agree to sit patiently with Emmanuel just to pacify him but entering the conversation having already made up his mind beforehand. The relationship between the two monks, grounded in mutual trust and (I presume) respect, gave Emmanuel the confidence to renew his request and opened the mind of the abbot to sincerely listen to and take seriously the request.

Trust is at a minimum in our world today. Whether this is due to a mistrust of media outlets, who we fear may be spreading fake news to advance their own private agenda, or the peril we constantly face of falling victim to cancel culture for speaking our mind openly to a friend who might over-react, there's a growing guardedness in our relationships. Perhaps it's the natural consequence of having too many divergent opinions on social media, each claiming authoritative knowledge, competing for our attention, or the translation of our social life from personal interaction to abstract online milieus. And certainly, AI will only further erode our trust factor—we can't even know if the video clip we're watching is a genuine record of a real incident or a generated facsimile. In such a world, the evangelical counsel of obedience that professed religious pledge themselves to is a vital seed of mutual trust, one that can help those of us in the larger outside world learn how to reclaim relationships built on a strong and solid base. Those who have a will supple enough to trust oneself to another's counsel in order to direct his/her actions in pursuit of a noble goal are far more likely to achieve that goal, make a lasting difference in the world—and by that impact inherit the earth.



*St. Benedict Restores Life to a Young Monk* by Giovanni del Biondo

— Fr. Ren

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Milk Chocolate Hearts  
made with love and prayers by  
The Nuns of Mount St. Mary's Abbey in Wrentham, MA



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OF COLUMBUS  
AFTER EACH MASS  
ON THE WEEKENDS OF  
JAN. 31 & FEB. 1,  
FEB. 7 & 8



\$25 A BOX  
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

**MY BROTHER'S  
TABLE**  
Food Donation Boxes located at the doors  
of St. Ann and St. Zepherin

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT LAURIE:  
HAPPYHOJLOS@VERIZON.NET

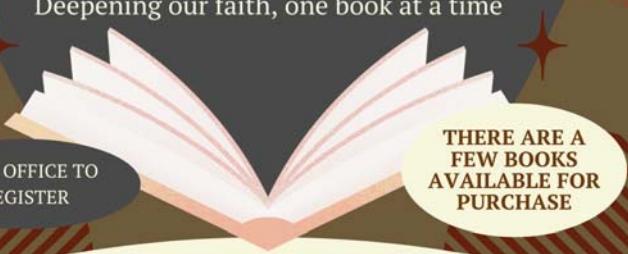
Next distribution date:  
Thursday  
February 12<sup>th</sup>!



SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS  
IN THE SPIRIT OF MATTHEW 25: 34-40  
DONATE, DELIVER, OR DISTRIBUTE

**EMMAUS READERS**

Deepening our faith, one book at a time



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REGISTER

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FEW BOOKS  
AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE

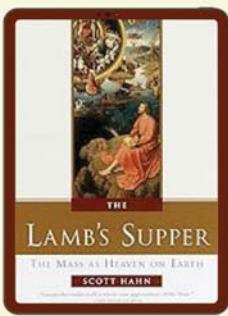
**JOIN OUR ADULT BOOK GROUP**

A 6 week session focusing on  
fellowship, prayer,  
and enriching discussion.

When: Wednesdays 7- 8pm  
Beginning Feb. 25 for our  
Lenten Read

Where: St. Ann's Church library

LINK TO REGISTER ONLINE  
COMING SOON!




**HAPPY  
PRESIDENTS' DAY**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH  
9 AM MASS @ ST. ZEPHERIN  
WILL BE HELD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH  
9 AM MASS @ ST. ANN  
WILL BE HELD

PARISH OFFICE & ST. ZEPHERIN CAMPUS  
WILL BE CLOSED  
IN OBSERVANCE

**Heart to Heart**  
*A Men's Group*



Heart to Heart  
A Men's Group to Grow Friendship and Faith, All in Christ

Passion and Paradox: Jesus's Model of Leadership

*The concept of a CEO as a "servant-leader" was a popular business model some years back. And Jesus was the original servant-leader.*

*Join us for an opportunity to look at how Jesus's way of leading His disciples reveals to us authentic authority: exercised with humility, responsibility, and service to others. Six meetings, once-a-month, will explore the many ways Jesus was a leader who came to serve.*

**Tuesday evenings, 6:30 PM, in the St. Ann Library**

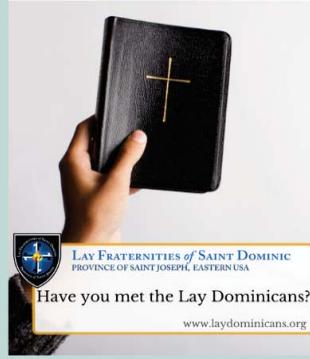
**Next Meeting: FEBRUARY 10TH**



+St. Martin  
de Porres,  
pray for us!+

Monthly meetings normally take  
place on the 3rd Sunday of the  
month in St. Ann's Hall  
and are open to visitors at any time.  
Next meeting: February 15, 2026

It is helpful if you do notify the group  
in advance  
if you will be attending.  
Direct inquiries to:  
Visit [boston3op.com](http://boston3op.com) for information  
or email  
Mrs. Mikayla Dalton, O.P.  
(fraternity president) at  
[mikayla.v.dalton@gmail.com](mailto:mikayla.v.dalton@gmail.com)



**TO** PRAISE,  
BLESS,  
PREACH

LAY FRATERNITIES OF SAINT DOMINIC  
PROVINCE OF SAINT JOSEPH, EASTERN USA

Have you met the Lay Dominicans?  
[www.laydominicans.org](http://www.laydominicans.org)

# Prayer Requests



## GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

### PRAYER LINE:

GSPPRAYERSGMAIL.COM

OR CALL THE NEW LINE  
TO LEAVE A MESSAGE:  
(508) 650 - 3545 EXT. 11

## READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2026

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Feb 8	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
<b>MONDAY</b>	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56
Feb 9	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>Saint Scholastica, Virgin</i>
Feb 10	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5+10, 11/Mk 7:1-13
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>
Feb 11	1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23
<b>THURSDAY</b>	1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37+40/Mk 7:24-30
Feb 12	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37
Feb 13	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop</i>
Feb 14	1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Feb 15	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Pilot Bulletins

## *The Son of Man Came to Seek and Save What Was Lost*

More and more young adults are looking for meaning and stability in their life, but sadly aren't sure where to go to find it. The richness of beauty and truth of our Catholic Faith has been a source of strength and purpose for countless people. Our young people deserve to have us share it with them.

### What can we do?

- Pray the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or make a Holy Hour for them
- Offer small sacrifices (fast from dessert, or meat, or TV) and offer it for their return
- Invite a young person to reach out to Father Ren for a friendly, open conversation. Sometimes a simple chat can plant the seeds of grace.  
(frren@goodshepherdwayland.org; 508.650.3545, ext. 14)

Let's unite in faith and hope, trusting that God hears our prayers and will touch the hearts of those who have wandered.



*"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." — Luke 15:6*



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

9 A.M. St. Zepherin Church  
Mass & Ashes

5:30 P.M. St. Zepherin Church  
Children's Liturgy of the Word &  
Distribution of Ashes

7 P.M. St. Ann Church  
Mass & Ashes

## DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

(ADJUSTMENTS WHILE FR. REN IS AWAY)



**MONDAY 9 AM @ ST. ANN**



**WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY**

**9 AM @ ST. ZEPHERIN**

No Daily Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Feb. 3 & 5, Feb. 10 & 12

## SEARCH LIGHT

“Where did she disappear to?” In the scramble to sort passengers, car seats, hats, coats and boots when heading back to MA from a family gathering in NH, the 2 ½ year old vanished. Outside the back door she had discovered a hollow in the snow/ice. Using her mini flashlight from Santa, she was creating fascinating bluish waves on the edges. No need to arm adults with those bright search lights that come out when a child is missing in the woods. Not that she was willingly abandoned in her explorations, of course. What about Jesus’ *you are the light of the world?* A city on a mountain like the search light? Or a household oil lamp, 1 candle power, like the flashlight?

Isaiah’s image of daylight breaking out when the hungry are fed, the homeless sheltered, the naked clothed, and people do not turn their back on those in need (Isa 58:7-10) inspired Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Remove oppression, false accusation, malicious speech and “*...the gloom shall become for you like midday,*” (v. 10). The prophet’s words for a people hoping to return to past “days of glory under King David” come with a warning. God ignores the rich and powerful. St. Paul insists that he didn’t use “media consultants” to push the gospel. Rather his own weakness copied Jesus’ own death on the cross (1 Cor 2:1-5).

Don’t expect human expertise to transform society. That would be as dumb as lighting a lamp and then putting a basket over it. But since the household oil lamp has the lumens of a mini flashlight, and not a search light, that “light the world” task has a different scale. What opportunities to heal the world around us are waiting to be discovered? By whom? A pause in the “grab child and insert into car seat” response, showed me something that only a very curious small person could discover.

Pheme Perkins, Ph.D.  
Joseph Professor  
Of Catholic Spirituality  
Boston College



“he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?” Matthew 26: 40

## HOLY HOUR

“The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did He plead but for an Hour of companionship.”

-Ven. Archbishop  
Fulton Sheen



**February 12th at St. Zepherin**  
**COME SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS**  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**Every 2nd Thursday at St Zepherin ~ 7:00-8:00 PM**  
**Every 4th Thursday at St Ann ~ 7:00-8:00 PM**



Scan QR code to see this week's readings!

# Readings To-Go!

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 8, 2026

### In the event of inclement weather:

When the local schools are closed during the week, so are we. There will be no daily Mass. The following stations provide closing and delay information on-screen

as well as on-line.

The on-line links are:

Channel 4 (WBZ)

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/closings/>

Channel 5 (WCVB)

[www.wcvb.com/weather/closings](http://www.wcvb.com/weather/closings)

Channel 7 (NBC) & Channel 56 (CW)

<http://whdh.com/storm-closings-delays/>

Channel 10 (NBC Boston)

<http://www.nbcBoston.com/weather/school-closings/>

Fox 25 (WFXT)

<http://www.fox25boston.com/weather/schoolclosings>

GOOD SHEPHERD  
PARISH

# UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT

MARCH 2-4

## PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Fr. Paul Sullivan,  
the Asst. Spiritual Director  
at St. John's Seminary  
will lead our mission!  
Mon & Tues 7 PM at St. Zepherin  
Wed 7 PM at St. Ann

For event  
details,  
please visit:

[WWW.GOODSHEPHERDWAYLAND.ORG](http://WWW.GOODSHEPHERDWAYLAND.ORG)

FEB. 20, 27,  
MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during  
Lent - St. Ann  
7 PM

MARCH 13

## FISH FRY

Prior to the Stations,  
this Friday our combined  
ministries will serve  
an appropriate Friday meal

MARCH 4

## PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Prepare for Holy Week  
by receiving the  
sacrament of  
reconciliation on the  
final night of our  
mission!

## GLORIA

Glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high-est. Glo-ry!  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.  
 We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly King, O God, al - might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo-ry!  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est. Glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. A - men.

Text © 2010, ICEL

Ed Bolduc

Music © 2011, WLP

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.  
 Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Music: Mass of Saint Ann, Ed Bolduc, © 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010  
Music: Mass of Saint Ann, Ed Bolduc, © 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION B

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
 we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a -  
 gain, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010  
Music: Mass of Saint Ann, Ed Bolduc, © 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

## AMEN

A - men, a - men, a - men.  
 A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: Mass of Saint Ann, Ed Bolduc, © 1992, 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world, grant us peace.

Music: *Mass of Saint Ann*, Ed Bolduc, © 1992, 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE TABERNACLE CANDLES



CONTACT THE  
PARISH OFFICE  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ON HOW YOU  
CAN HONOR THE  
MEMORY OF A  
LOVED ONE.  
508-650-3545



St Zepherin Church  
is open for weekday prayer  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Friday  
9:00 AM - 12 noon

## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY PRAYER

O glorious advocate and protector,  
St. Valentine,  
look with pity upon our wants,  
hear our requests, attend to our prayers,  
relieve by your intercession the miseries  
under which we labour, and obtain for us the  
divine blessing, that we may be found worthy to  
join you in praising the Almighty for all  
eternity: through the merits of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

@AshleyKicizek

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
**Patrick Sean Riley**

Whose funeral Mass was recently celebrated at our parish



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them"

*The Requiem Prayer*



February 14<sup>th</sup> is World Marriage Day!

On this World Marriage Day, we thank our heavenly Father for the gift and blessing of marriage and the family. As we strive to live our particular vocations and respond to the Lord's grace in our lives, let's also consider how we might dedicate renewed prayer and attention to marriage and the family.

As a start, here are possible areas we might consider:

**First**, we begin with prayer: Let's remember to pray with and for marriages and families throughout our nation: for marriages in crisis, for families struggling with unemployment, for broken or wounded family relationships.

**Second**, let us reclaim Sunday as the Lord's Day, a day of rest when we can focus on being together as a family. The celebration of Holy Mass together is the first essential way to honor this day. But is there something more the Lord is inviting us to when we go back home? Set aside some time to pray a decade of the rosary, enjoy the outdoors together, play ball, eat dinner together, have a game night!

**And third**, let us remember that the Church is the family of God and a family of families. As a family, how can we share Christ with other married couples and families? Do we have any friends and family members who are struggling in their marriage, alone during this time of isolation, or particularly afflicted by this pandemic? When was the last time we checked on our elderly neighbors? Is there someone in the parish that we haven't seen in a while? How can we-as a family-reach out to those who are in need?

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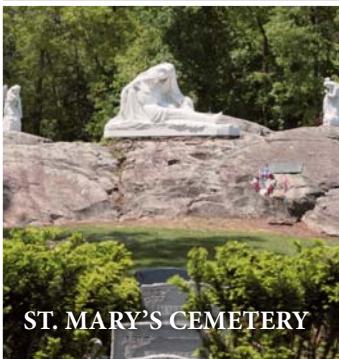
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