



Good Shepherd

Catholic Church

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Good Shepherd, we are a family growing in faith, enriched by diversity, serving neighbors.

Address: 5050 Oak Street,
Hope Mills, NC 28348
Contact: (910) 425-1590
gdshprd81@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm
(unless otherwise posted)

Website: good-shepherd-church.org



MASS READINGS

Isaiah 22: 19-23; Psalm 138
Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20



AUGUST 23, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Parental participation in a program to prepare parents is required. Family must be registered with the parish for at least six months. Contact the Parish Office at least three months in advance of requested baptismal date. Preparation sessions are first Saturday of every other month, 10:45am, Room 4.

Marriage: Couples are asked not to set a date for their wedding until they meeting with the pastor. Diocesan requirements: minimum 6-month period of preparation.

Annulments: If you or your current spouse are divorced, and remarried outside of the Catholic Church, please consider seeking the healing that an investigation for a Decree of Nullity can bring to you and which will enable you to return to a full participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

For **Marriage Prep or Annulments**, contact
Deacon Nay Henriquez: 910-425-1590,
jhenri823@gmail.com.

Other Sacraments, including Anointing of the Sick and Funeral Masses: call the Parish Office.

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL - 5:00pm

SUNDAY - 8:30am, 11:30am

DAILY

Tuesday 9:00am

Wednesday 6:30pm

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 12:00pm

HOLY DAYS - as announced

First Saturdays - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

Wednesday - 5:30-6:15pm

Saturday - 4:00-4:45pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday - 5:30-6:20pm

First Fridays - 1:00-8:00pm

CLERGY

Pastor

Fr. Arul Yagappan, MSFS
Father.arul.gsc@gmail.com

Deacon

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jhenri823@gmail.com

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DRE / Office Assistant

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Ext. 200

Bulletin & Calendar Requests

gsbulletinedit@gmail.com



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

will illuminate the Blessed Sacrament In Loving Memory of James & Marianne Chapman from the Chapman Family.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS this week were donated **In Thanksgiving**, given by the Annan Family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Aug 22	5:00p	✠ Robert Johnson
Sun. Aug 23	8:30a	Intentions of Ryan Dilday
	11:30a	People of Good Shepherd
Mon. Aug 24	No Mass	
Tue. Aug 25	9:00a	✠ Robert Ferguson
Wed. Aug 26	6:30p	✠ Robert Johnson, ✠ All Souls in Purgatory
Thur. Aug 27	9:00a	✠ John & Helen Daly
Fri. Aug 28	6:30p	✠ Maria White, Msgr. Rick Tofani
Sat. Aug 29	5:00p	Intentions of Lenny & Rose Foderaro
Sun. Aug 30	8:30a	✠ Mary and Leonard Scott
	11:30a	People of Good Shepherd

Offertory Report for August 16th 2026

Offertory received for the week.....	\$4,940.00
5:00pm Mass.....	\$1,646.00
8:30am Mass.....	\$1,830.00
11:30am Mass.....	\$799.00
Mailings.....	\$75.00
Online giving.....	\$590.00



FUNDS NEEDED TO MEET WEEKLY

EXPENSES OF THE PARISH.....\$7,156.27

Week of August 16th Unfavorable.....\$2,216.27

Collection for the Assumption of Mary.....\$1,132.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish

Easy Online Giving

Mobile App:

1. Download **MyParishApp**.
2. select **Good Shepherd Parish (Hope Mills)**.
3. Click the **"Giving"** button & follow the directions.

Website:

1. Go to: *Good-Shepherd-Church.org*.
2. Click on "Online Giving" in the top right screen.
3. Click on "E-Giving & Contributions"

Thank you!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING

Tuesday, August 25th, 6:30pm in the church.



Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Table, or use this QR Code.

Please note: The training will be cancelled if no one signs up.

Our Parish This Week

Sunday, August 23 - *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30am - Mass
9:45am - OCIA, Room 2
11:30am - Mass (**Blessing of the Backpacks**)
1:00pm - Safe Environment Training, CAP Room

Monday, August 24 - *St. Bartholomew*

6:00pm - Legion of Mary, Room 2
Tuesday, August 25 - *St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz*

9:00am - Mass

1:00pm - Divine Mercy Group, Gathering Area
6:30pm - **EXO Training, Church (must sign-up)**

Wed. August 26

10:30am - Morning Scripture Enrichment Group, Room 2
5:30pm - Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions
6:30pm - Mass

Thursday, August 27 - *St. Monica*

9:00am - Mass
10:00am - Holy Stitchers, Room 6 (Social Hall)

Friday, August 28 - *St. Augustine*

12:00pm - Mass
5:30pm - Choir Practice, Music Room

Saturday, August 29 - *Passion of St. John the Baptist*

1:00pm - Couples For Christ, Downstairs Social Hall
4:00pm - Confessions

5:00pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, August 30 - *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30am - Mass
9:45am - OCIA, Room 2
9:45am - Catechist Meeting for Grades K-5, Classroom 10
11:30am - Mass
1:00pm - Catechist Meeting for Middle School, Classroom 10

BLESSING of the backpacks

All Students, please
bring your backpack
to Mass on the
Sunday, August 23, 11:30 Mass
to receive a
SPECIAL BLESSING
for the new school year.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING (SET)

THIS Sunday, August 23rd,
1:00pm, Gathering Area,
Social Hall.

Register here



FAITH FORMATION

Register Now for Faith Formation

Only 28% of young people continuing Faith Formation have been registered for this season's classes. Time is running out. Please register your children now so our Catechist and Assistant volunteers can prepare for class.

**Forms are on the Welcome Table,
or stop by the Parish Office**

**Classes start on September 27.
Reserve your child's spot today!
\$40 per child, capped at \$80 per family**

**Contact Barb Chapman: gscddre@gmail.com
910-425-1590**

CATECHISTS, ASSISTANTS, VOLUNTEERS

**Remaining openings to be filled:
Assistant for 3rd Grade,
Catechist & Assistant for 6th Grade,
Childrens' Dismissal teams for ages 3-5,
and two Hall Monitors
(one for morning, one for afternoon).**

**All Catechist meetings will be in Classroom 10:
Sunday, August 30th, 9:45-11am: K-5 Grades
1-2:15pm Middle/High School
Sunday, Sept. 6th, 9:45-11am:
Sac. Prep II, Track II, and
Parents' Sacramental Prep
1-2:15pm: Confirmation I & II**

11:30 Mass Childrens' Dismissal begins on September 6
Please contact Barb in the Parish Office: 910-425-1590, ext. 200, or email gscddre@gmail.com.

**Catechist Commissioning Sunday is September 20th.
Classes will begin on Sunday, September 27.**

**Morning Scripture Enrichment: The Beginning of
Our Story**

Begins this Wednesday, 10:30am, Room 2

**Evening Scripture Enrichment: Scripture for Today
*Begins Wednesday, September 9th, 7:00pm, Room 2***

Reflections of our Faith...

THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Memorial: August 29)

John the Baptist... Jesus' first cousin and the final prophet of the Old Covenant who helped pave the way for Christ, calling for repentance of sins and pointing to Jesus as the Lamb of God. *(see CCC 523)*

The Scriptural Account of His Martyrdom... is found in the Gospels of **Mark 6: 17-29** and **Matthew 14: 1-12**. John is imprisoned for proclaiming God's truth about marriage: "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias holds a grudge and seeks his death. Herod's pride and a rash oath lead to John's beheading. His disciples take his body and bury it reverently.

Teaching from the Popes....

Pope Benedict XVI taught that John was a **martyr for truth**, because he had a pure intention and humility. He showed courage in confronting a moral wrong. Pope Francis called John a **martyr of truth and chastity**, who was killed by a "chain of vices": The corruption of Herod, the hatred for John of Herodias (Herod's brother's wife), and the vanity of Salome (Herodias' daughter).

Some Insights include...

- John's martyrdom foreshadows Christ's Passion.
- Both John and Jesus are killed by political powers manipulated by personal sin.
- John models holy boldness—speaking truth without cruelty or compromise.
- His witness challenges Catholics to remain faithful in a culture that resists moral clarity.

Themes touching our lives today...

- **Courage:** John proclaims truth even when unpopular or dangerous.
- **Integrity:** He defends the sanctity of marriage at the cost of his life.
- **Humility:** His entire mission points away from himself and toward Christ.
- **Martyrdom for Truth:** John dies because he refuses to deny God's moral law.

Family Reflections...

- What does it mean to be a "martyr for truth" today?
- How does John's courage challenge us to defend the faith?
- What does his humility teach us about Christian leadership?
- How does his death prepare us to understand Christ's Passion?
- How can each of us apply the example of John as an authentic Christian to our own life today?

Prizes are available for families who submit their reflections in writing to the DRE Office! (Please include family member names and ages.)

Closing Prayer...

O God, who willed that Saint John the Baptist should go before Your Son both in his birth and in his death, grant that as he died a martyr for truth and justice, we may courageously bear witness to Your Gospel. Amen.

NEW SEASON, NEW BEGINNINGS...

As we move from summer into a new school year, our parish family continues to welcome new faces and returning parishioners alike. If you're settling into the area — or simply hoping to get more involved — we invite you to explore the ministries and groups that enrich life at Good Shepherd. Each offers a meaningful way to share your gifts, grow in fellowship, and live your faith through service. Together, we build the community that makes Good Shepherd a family in Christ.



Good Shepherd OCIA Program

The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) at Good Shepherd is a journey of discovery and transformation — a place where adults seeking to enter the Catholic Church encounter Christ through prayer, study, and the witness of our parish community.

Whether someone is exploring the faith for the first time, returning after many years, or preparing to receive the sacraments, OCIA is where hearts are welcomed, questions are honored, and faith comes alive.

This beautiful ministry is sustained by the generosity of parishioners who walk alongside our seekers. Parishioners who are in full communion with the Catholic Church can serve as session catechists and sponsors. You don't need to be a theologian — only someone who loves the Faith and is willing to accompany others as they grow in their relationship with Christ. Training, materials, and support are provided.

Your presence, encouragement, and witness can make a profound difference in the life of someone longing to know the Lord and become part of His Church.

We invite all parishioners to join us in this mission of evangelization and discipleship. Together, let us welcome seekers, build community, and walk joyfully with Christ!

RESHAPE YOUR JOURNEY

Contact: Camille Gropy,
alcam2403@gmail.com or
Barb Chapman,
gscddre@gmail.com, Parish
Office 910-425-1590.



THE 1st FRIDAY & 1st SATURDAY DEVOTIONS



Friday, September 4th: 12pm Mass & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8pm
Saturday, September 5th: 9am Mass & Rosary

SAVE THE DATE!



Want to join us?

Pick up a Welcome Packet or come see us in the Parish Office

If you come here to Mass every week, please register in the parish. Our membership database helps us plan for everyone's needs. Also, registration & active membership are required to receive these sacraments: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage.

What is **Active Membership**?

1) Registration in the parish for a sufficient period of time and use of the envelope or EFT system in support of the parish; 2) Faithful attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days; and 3) Volunteer and participate in Parish activities with time, talent, and treasure as means permit.

Sick, Homebound, Hospitalized: Please notify the Parish Office when someone is ill and unable to attend Mass for any significant length of time and would like to receive Holy Communion.

Bulletin Deadline: Requests must be received 14 **business** days **prior** to the weekend bulletin is to be published. E-mail your request to: **gsbulletinedit@gmail.com**.

If you are moving out of the area or have any other change of life status, please contact the Office so we can update the membership database.

A Welcome Lunch for new parishioners is sponsored by the Women of Charity about every three months. When you receive your invitation, please respond if you will or will not be able to attend, so the ladies can plan properly.

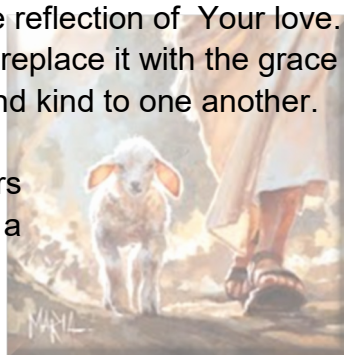
Most of all, **please join us! We would love to meet you!**

PRAYER TO OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

Lord Jesus, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon our parish. Transform our hearts and open our hands, that we may become a true reflection of Your love. Remove all judgment and replace it with the grace to be patient, welcoming and kind to one another.

May our actions draw others
To You, making our parish a
Beacon of Your peace.

Amen. ✠



CONTACTS

Pastoral Council

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lhawk241@gmail.com

Faith Formation/OCIA

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Bulletin & Calendar

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Youth / Kids for Christ

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Divine Mercy Group

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Legion of Mary Mother of the Eucharist

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Thriving Parish

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Welcoming Committee

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910-670-7700

Bulletin Inserters

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kweller1953@gmail.com
863-521-4161

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Ilse Johnson, Filiberto Arroyo, Lenny Foderaro
Call the Parish Office: 910-425-1550

ROBIN CANDIDO



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