



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham

November 20, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday, we will hear the following passage of the great judgement scene from the Gospel According to Matthew.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Sometimes we Christians equate faithfulness to God exclusively with the worship of God and Jesus. Sometimes we forget that the greatest commandment is to love God wholly and completely, which includes loving our neighbor as we love ourselves (which means as we love our family and friends).

Jesus is quite clear in the above passage from Matthew that God judges faithfulness based on how we treat "others" in our lives. "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

How we treat, the stranger, the foreigner, those who worship differently, those who speak another language or come from another culture, those whose skin color or gender or sexual orientation are different than ours matters greatly to God.

Let us reject the messages of hate and suspicion that would divide us from one another, for we are all God's family. Our differences are not to be feared, but to be seen as God's gift to us of diversity. Let us learn from one another and celebrate the great family of God through which we are all related.

When we have difficulty accepting the "others" in our lives, according to Jesus, we are having difficulty accepting God. Let us all pray for hearts and minds that are open to receiving God as God presents God's self to us each day, especially through the "others" in our lives.

***God, help us through the power of the Holy Spirit,
to continue to love as Jesus loved.***

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 24, 2024	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> RICH SOUZA <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY	<u>READERS:</u> CHILDRENS SERVICE <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> JUDY GOVON & RICHEL BALANCA <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> RICHELLIS <u>NURSERY:</u> NO NURSERY - CHILDRENS SERVICE

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, November 24, the 10am Service will be a Children's Service. The scripture reading, sermon, prayers, and music will be geared towards the children. All are welcome!
2. This is a reminder to *please return your 2025 pledge form* to the church, if you have not already done so. If you are unable to make a pledge this year due to your financial position, please indicate that on the pledge form and return it. You may place your pledge form in the offertory box on Sunday or mail it to the church.
3. This coming Sunday is the last day to *return your shoe boxes* (Shoe Box Ministry) filled with things for children around the world. See below for more information.
4. If you have parish information to pass on to the Good Shepherd community in our weekly newsletter ("Along the Way"), please submit the information to our office manager Cathi Maurice or to Pastor Dan.

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

2024 Stewardship Pledge Drive Update

Thank you to those of you who have returned your 2025 pledge forms. So far, we have received **48 pledges totaling \$110,365**. If you have not yet done so, please return your completed pledge forms to the church as soon as possible by placing them in the offering box in the church or by mailing them to the church. Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the church and on our [church website](#). Thank you!

Our Christmas Services

Our Worship Services in celebration of Christmas will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm (Family Service with children's participation) and 8pm (Traditional Candlelight Service – with prelude music beginning at 7:40), and at 10am on Christmas Day (Traditional Service). The 8pm Service will also be on Facebook Live (beginning at 7:40pm), and a link to the recorded 8pm Christmas Eve Service will be emailed to those on our church email list following the 8pm Service.

Children's Sunday Service – November 24

Our next Children's Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, November 24 during our 10am Service. This Service will focus on the children of our Good Shepherd community. The prayers, music, readings, and the sermon will speak to the children. All are invited to participate in these children focused Eucharistic Services. There will be no age restriction. Everyone can benefit from these Services. Let us gather in support of our young families and their children.

Annual Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Fair

On Saturday, December 7 from 9am-2pm, the Good Shepherd Guild is holding its annual Christmas Fair. We have been working on crafts, but we need your help with some of our other offerings. Used Christmas items (good time to clean out), new and used jewelry (jewelry donations to be dropped off at least one week prior to fair), new and gently used scarves, new and like new gift items for all ages of children and adults for the Children's Shopping Room. Start collecting these items at home and bring them to the Church at least a week before the Fair so that we can sort and organize. We will also offer a variety of Crafts and Gift Baskets made and put together by the Good Shepherd Guild. All parishioners will receive a letter with all the details, raffle tickets and additional requests for the Baked Goods Table. Your baked goods should be brought to church on Friday (December 6) from 11am till 4pm. Your help, especially your attendance and letting people know about the Fair, is greatly appreciated. We are in need of anyone who could stand in for just an hour or so to provide a break for those working the tables. See you at the Christmas Fair!

Christmas Gift Cards for Children of Families in Need

Please consider donating a Christmas gift card to help children of local families in need. A gift card of any amount will help. The most helpful gift cards are from Target and Walmart. Gift cards can be placed in the gift card basket in the back of the church or mailed to the church *through December 8*. Thank you!

Parish Thanksgiving Service

There will be a Parish Thanksgiving Service on **Wednesday, November 27 at 7pm**. All are welcome to gather and together give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, including our parish family. Thanksgiving Day can be very busy with many details to attend to; the Parish Thanksgiving Service is a good way to make sure that thanking God is part of our Thanksgiving celebration. The Thanksgiving Eve Service will also be available online through Facebook Live, and the recorded Service will be made available following the live Service.

The Good Shepherd's Table Thanksgiving Day Meal

On Thanksgiving Day (November 28) there will once again be a Thanksgiving meal served in the Church Hall at 1pm, preceded by a prayer service in the church at 12:30. All are welcome to share in this meal, which is open to the public. Please help us let others know about this opportunity, especially those who may be alone for Thanksgiving.

Mid-Week Eucharist

On Wednesdays at Noon, there is a celebration of the Eucharist in the church, which is open to all. This is an opportunity to gather for prayer and reflection; and be reminded of God's presence between Sundays. For those on your lunch break, the celebration of the mid-week Eucharist is approximately 20 minutes. ***There will not be a mid-week Service on Wednesday, November 27.***

Church Service Booklet Ads Fundraiser

One of the main fundraisers of our church is the ad section of our Sunday Service booklets. Businesses take out ads each year, which helps them and us at the same time. Please help us raise funds for our church by giving an area business the opportunity to advertise in our Sunday Service booklets. Church ads fundraiser packets can be found in the back of the church, which will guide you on how to invite businesses to advertise with us. Ads should be returned to the church by November 24. Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry

It's time once again for the "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box ministry. This is a *global* ministry where boxes filled with toys and useful items are sent to children across the world, along with messages of God's (and *our!*) love for them. Shoe boxes and information are available at the back of the church near the entrance. Filled shoe boxes can be dropped off at the church ***through Sunday November 24***. Please include a \$10 check for shipping, made out to "Samaritan's Purse". You can also pay the shipping with a credit card online (see link below). Contact Jeane Wallace if you have questions: jmarg2000@yahoo.com or 508-291-2095. For more information about Operation Christmas Child, and guidelines for packing a shoe box visit: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry to Close

Tuesday, December 3 from 3-6pm, The Good Shepherd Food Pantry will be open for the last time. This decision was made due to the opening of the new Damiens Food Pantry facility earlier this year. About 80% of those who used to come to our Good Shepherd Pantry now go to Damien's. For more information about the closing of our food pantry, please refer to the letter Pastor Dan emailed parishioners on November 4. Until then, we are still looking for donations of cereal, toilet paper (4 packs), and individually packaged paper towels. Donations to the Food Pantry can be dropped off on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 or can be left in the back of the church on Sunday mornings.

Please Stay Home When You're Not Feeling Well

This is a reminder that if you have covid or another contagious illness, please do not come to the church. Basically, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. It is important that you stay home and rest, and it is important that we be vigilant in order not to spread viruses with one another. Remember, the 10am Sunday Service is offered on Facebook Live every Sunday, and the link to the recorded Service is sent to those on our church email list following the live Service. Stay home, rest, and participate online.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. Please contact Pastor Dan for more information. The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org).

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) is open during our 10am Sunday Services. Children are most welcome in the church, but the nursery will be available for them as well. Children can arrive at the nursery beginning at 9:50am and the nursery will close 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 10am Service. The Sunday Nursery is located on the third floor of the church, which can be accessed at the top of the church office stairwell in the back of the church building, through the door (marked Sunday Nursery). All nursery volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. If you have questions about the

nursery or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office (508-295-2840). The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). *The Sunday Nursery will be closed on November 24, as there will be a Children's 10am Service that day.*

WCTV Sunday Service Coverage

WCTV, the Wareham local access channel, will now be broadcasting recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services will air a week later. WCTV can be found on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 30. This is a good way to share Jesus' message of love and compassion with our Wareham community, and also let people know about our Good Shepherd community.

Prayer Request Book

In the back of the church on Sunday mornings, there is a Prayer Request Book. As you come into the church each Sunday, you are welcome to record in the Prayer Request Book the names of those who need prayers. During the prayers of the people, we pray for "all those whose names have been recorded in the Prayer Request Book."

Sunday Coffee Hour

Every Sunday, following the 10am Sunday Service, coffee hour is held in the Church Hall. Coffee hour is an opportunity for us to further get to know one another and share our lives with one another. The wearing of a facemask is welcome, for those who choose to wear one. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate at coffee hour.

Good Shepherd Table

Good Shepherd's Table serves a free in-person meal, which is open to the public, every Thursday at 4:30pm. Take-out meals are available from 4:30-4:45pm for those who choose not to eat indoors with others. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate in the Good Shepherd Table indoor dining.

Pastoral Care

If you would like yourself or someone else placed on the Good Shepherd prayer list, please contact me (Pastor Dan). The Good Shepherd prayer group prays daily for those on the prayer list. If you need or would like a pastoral visit from the priest, please let me know. My contact information can be found below and is also on the back of the weekly Sunday Service Booklet. The only way I know that you need a pastoral visit is if you let me know. You might want to keep my contact information (cell # 603-953-3659 for emergencies) somewhere handy, so you know where to find it if the need arises. Pastor Dan

Contacting Pastor Dan

You can contact me by email (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com), by calling the church number (508-295-2840) and leaving a message, or if it is an urgent matter by calling me through my cell phone (603-953-3659). Pastor Dan

Please "Like" us on Facebook

Please like us on Facebook ("Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham") so we can get the word out about what is happening in our parish community, especially about our Facebook Live Services