

Good Shepherd & St Christopher's Parish



**Saturday 4pm Mass at Good Shepherd
with Confessions til 530pm**

- - -

**Sunday 730am Mass St Christopher's w Confessions after
Sunday 9am Good Shepherd Church
Sunday 1045am held at both Churches
Sunday 6pm St Christopher's Church**

**Weekday Mass Tuesday-Friday
8am at Good Shepherd 9am at St Christopher's**

**Eucharistic Adoration 7-8pm
St Christopher's with available confessions**

**Religious Ed (CCD 430-545pm)
Wednesdays & Thursdays SC School Building**

**Men's Prayer Group— Thursdays 615-650pm on Zoom
Meeting ID 867 7869 8602 Passcode 1Q3q9R**

FY 2024-2025 Financial Summary

Strengths—due to God’s grace and many parishioners’ generosity

Despite losing some heavier hitters to death last year we have kept the collections stable. At the end of the year we basically broke even with a lot of extra expenses due to buildings, upgrades and healthcare. We ended FY 2025 with a deficit of \$2,000. Not bad at all. Our healthy savings is reserved for a rainy day and other parts of it are invested with Wells Fargo or in CD’s at the Rhinebeck Bank.

We had a very good Christmas this year up \$11,000 from last year alone. But largely due to four people going above and beyond—one \$5,000 gift alone and several \$1,000 ones. We also have been blessed by being remembered in the Wills of Betty Bader, Kathleen Kennedy and Father Coen who were exceptionally generous. Just last week someone gave us \$10,000 as a New Year’s gift.

We have one donor who in the last five years has helped our parish to the tune of \$400,000 - I never count that as income because that is restricted giving for set projects not ordinary operating expenses so we don’t reflect that in our income and expenses sheet. This has renovated our GYM, airconditioned it, painted St Joseph’s and redone our hallways and foyer in the school building.

Threats to look out for but are largely out of our control

Buildings are our biggest cost and they never get younger 1852 (Good Shepherd) 1863 (St Joseph’s) 1925 (St Christopher’s) and 1962 (the school building) add to the fact that we have a flat roof in the northeast you can see why we spend so much to keep them all functioning. I know it was a hard choice but I thank God everyday that Father Crawford sold the crumbling Brogan Center, we probably still have too many buildings.

My old parish had three times the parishioners but only half the square footage and half of the rectories. We can’t really do anything about it now but what that means is that a larger percentage of what could go to programs, ministries or people in need is going to brick & mortar, and that’s fine—but you should know that.

Healthcare costs—I expect to have to pay probably another \$60,000 in increased health insurance costs this year on employees. Thankfully some get it from other sources but you know too well how this works, or doesn’t.

In the long run– we are a healthy parish financially speaking—we have savings and we either are a little ahead of we just break even. I don’t talk about money a lot because I feel that if we get faith right, full church, then we’ll have a full wallet. An empty church will never fundraise itself out of poverty and will focus on money rather than God and isn’t that the greatest poverty of all?



Something's in the water....the Holy Water.

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord last weekend we welcomed four more children into the Body of Christ—the Church. We also celebrated with a number of folks who have had their kids baptized in the past months—we had brunch thanks to Patti Deegan and Melissa Silvestro and discussed convalidations, conversions, and catching up with sacraments for them as



Unto dust shall you return

The last few months we have been hit by a large number of emergency calls, hospice situations and funerals. The regrettable assisted suicide law in New York while the extreme opposite extreme and unnecessary measures to stay alive, the Church, doctors, and others are able to offer some wisdom especially to folks who want to prepare for the one reality we will face: our death.

How we face this in a way that is prudent and in line with the Will of God is crucially important especially in a part of the county that is above average in number of elderly folks. Soon we will announce an evening that will focus on living wills, DNRs, Catholic teaching, alongside the advice of medical and funeral specialists. This is perfect for everyone who has someone in their life who is loved and has also lived long.

Priests often want to do these seminars but often hold back because there may have been a “big funeral” that causes people to think it was about this or that person but in light of so many recently—we hope to hold this soon to discuss these important matters. Stay tuned—



WOMEN'S LENTEN JOURNEY



Five-Week Series

Tuesday, February 24

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Tuesday, March 3

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord!

Tuesday, March 10

Encounter and Transformation

Tuesday, March 17

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it finds its
rest in thee."

(St. Augustine, Confessions, I.1)

Tuesday, March 24

"O Jesus, my Love, at last I have found
my vocation. My vocation is love!"

(St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Story of a Soul, Manuscript C)

All Are Welcome

7:00 pm

St. Christopher's School

First Classroom



Mass Intentions For January 17 & 18th
SC Sanctuary Lamp for Therese Mahoney(lvg)
Richard Mahoney(D) By Family

James Rosell by Gaddis-Clegg Family
Mass for the People of the Parish
Christine Kocik by The Kocik Family
Barbara Rifenburg by Michael & Annie Antonell
Emery Ruger by John & Patty Platania
John Carlesi by Ray & Lorraine Ricci

Tuesday
8am-Raymond Heady by Rose Heady
9am-Ronald McGowan by Dave & Kim Whelly

Wednesday
8am-Mark McGann by William & Donna McGann
9am-Jennifer Aierstok by The Hare Family

Thursday
8am-Helen Mary Hughes
9am-Eleanor De Gruccio by Dave & Lynda Jutton

Friday
8am-John Grady by The Grady Family
9am-Kathleen Irwin by Kathleen & John Kelly

Mass Intentions for January 24 & 25th

James Rosell by Juliana Ruhland Clark
Pete Rumsey by Sharon & Harold Sanger
Mary F. Kelly
John Flynn by John & Mary O'Haire
Debbie Guido by Lorraine & Ray Ricci
Mass For The People Of The Parish

Rev. Jeffrey Maurer,
Pastor

Rev Giorgio Thoman

Raymond Ricci,
Anthony Silvestro,
Permanent Deacons

Maureen Terranova &
Frances Remenek,
Office Assistants

Main Parish Office
30 Benner Road, Red Hook,
NY 12571 -
845-758-3732 •

Rectory
@stchrisredhook.org

Lori Pociask, Bookkeeper
& David Whelly, Facilities

Hillary Gaddis-Clegg,
Rel. Ed. Director
845-758-5506 •
Education
@stchrisredhook.org

Office closed on Fridays,
Saturdays and Sundays

Jan 4th Weekend
\$17,842

2 people talking—stops 20 people praying.

Sadly, churches can be places of more distraction than focused prayer, and often it's our own fault. One of the nicest things about the 6pm Mass, people tell me, is that you can go there and actually pray beforehand.

It's been my experience too. Perhaps we can check ourselves and focus in on the Eucharistic Lord in the Tabernacle, pray a decade of the rosary quietly, kneel, or just silently read the readings ahead of the Mass. Leave the phone in the car. After Mass there is often time to chat and gather—especially at our parish but beforehand let's try not to frustrate folk's attempts for some peace and prayer with the Lord.