

# GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

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My Dear Friends,

I am often asked about the status of and future plans for Holy Spirit Church. In my nearly two years here as administrator of Good Shepherd Parish, I have spoken about Holy Spirit Church with many of you and consulted with our parish finance council and pastoral council about it.

We have not used Holy Spirit Church for nearly six years now and regrettably, it is very unlikely this situation will change. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church is less than a mile away from Holy Spirit. The church and hall easily accommodate the number of parishioners attending Mass and parish gatherings. There is an elevator and adequate parking at our current worship site and with me being the only priest assigned to the parish, it lessens the challenge of covering Masses at more than one church and allows me to spend more time with you.

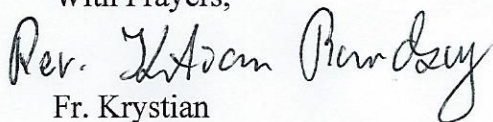
As you are very aware, our parish faces financial challenges, including a large debt for the loan used to make necessary repairs to our church roof. Even though it is unused, Holy Spirit Church requires an expenditure of between \$25,000 - \$35,000 every year for maintenance, not to mention the heat, air conditioning and electricity. Additionally, as a result of some leaks and roof damage, it has caused a mold issue which is progressing daily and would be quite costly to mitigate. We are still responsible for all of the upkeep and snow/ice removal.

With all the advice I have received from multiple levels and sources, it has been recommended that it is time to seriously consider leasing or even selling Holy Spirit Church to another religious congregation or an organization in need of such a building and one that would respect the church's original dignity. I thank all of you who have offered insight, perspective, and guidance. I am in agreement with your advice, and I will ask our bishop for permission to consider offers to lease or buy the church. I would however, like to seek any additional thoughts, comments and/or feelings you may have. As such, I have decided to set a deadline of May 31, 2021 at 4:00p.m. to field your comments and sentiments.

If you wish, please feel free to see me after Mass on the following weekends; May 15/16, May 22/23, May 29/30 or, you may call my personal office line (732) 826-2771, the Parish Office (732) 826-4859 or email the parish office for an appointment at [goodshepherd20@verizon.net](mailto:goodshepherd20@verizon.net) or to speak with me directly.

Holy Spirit Church has served the spiritual needs of Catholics in Hopelawn and western Perth Amboy very well for 60 years and will never be forgotten. I know it will always be thought of fondly by those of you who worshipped and received Sacraments there and it will always be remembered as part of the history of Good Shepherd Parish.

With Prayers,

  
Fr. Krystian