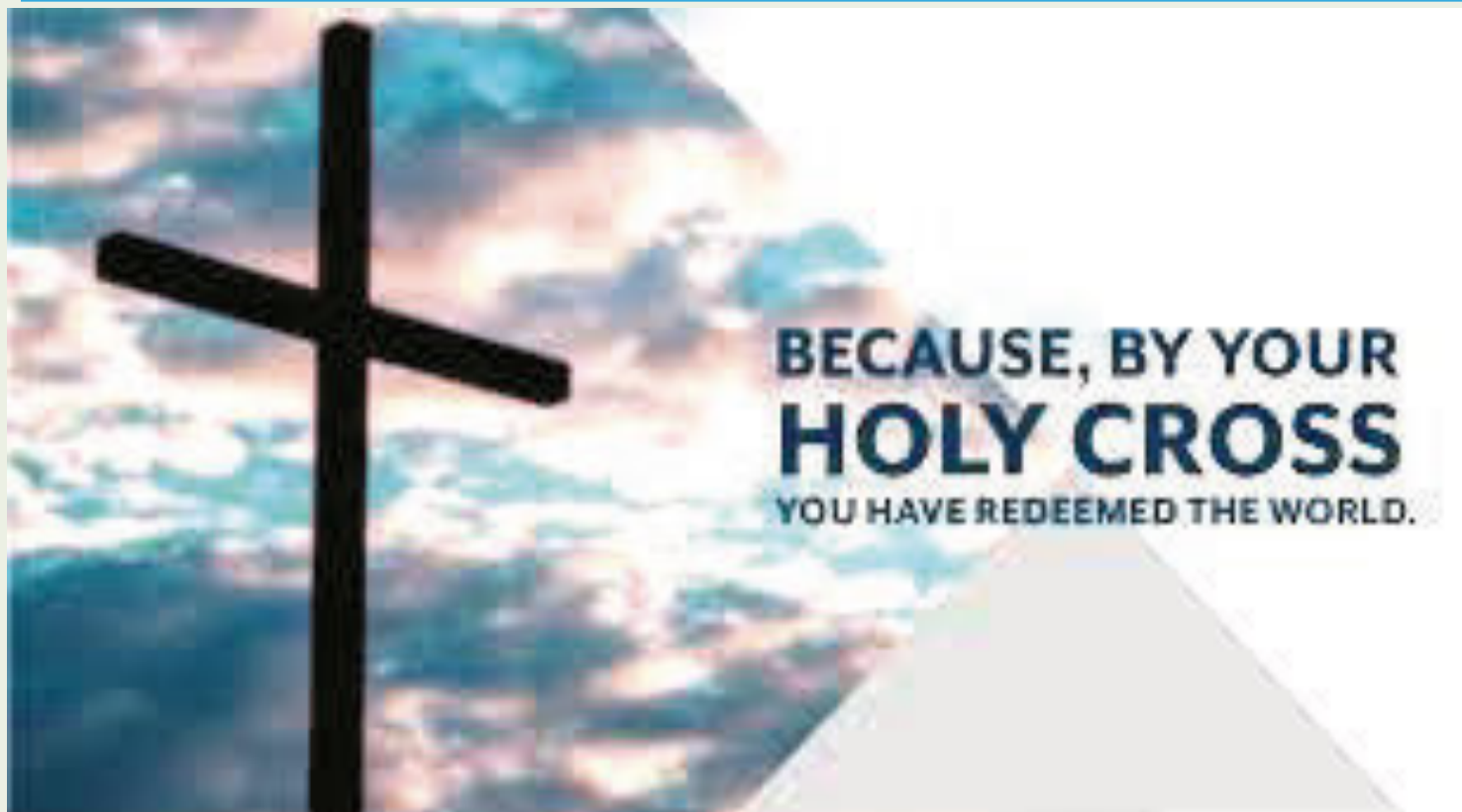


OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH
The Exaltation of the Cross
September 14, 2025

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday: 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
4:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.



HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE
MASS

Saturday: 5:15 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M.
Weekday Mass
Monday – Saturday
8:00 A.M.
Last Tuesday of the
Month 7:00 P.M.

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Edison, NJ 08837
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Fords, NJ 08863
Email us: mail@olpfords.org
Visit us at: www.olpfords.org
Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837
Hours: Monday through Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm
Phone: 732-738-7940

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,



Today is the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, but we are celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Why? When a Feast of the Lord falls on a Sunday, it replaces the Sunday in Ordinary Time. Examples: The Presentation of the Lord, The Transfiguration of the Lord or The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Why is this feast so important even though it is not the feast of any saint nor a celebration of a particularly important liturgical event? We are honoring the Cross upon which Christ was crucified. Primarily, we are honoring Christ's saving action through His death on the Cross, but we are also honoring the actual instrument of the Crucifixion that has become the fundamental sign of our faith.

According to legend, Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, discovered the true Cross while on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the year 326. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built by Constantine on the site of discovery, and this September 14 marks the date of that church's dedication.

Christians "exalt" (raise on high) the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ — all in one image. Placing a crucifix (the cross with an image of Christ's body upon it) in churches and homes, in classrooms of Catholic schools and in other Catholic institutions, or wearing this image on our persons, is a constant reminder and witness of Christ's ultimate triumph, His victory over sin and death through His suffering and dying on the Cross.

We remember Our Lord's words, *"He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake shall find it"* (Mt 10:38,39). Who among us has not carried crosses in our lives?

A young man who wanted to be a lawyer, but his father died, and he had to leave school and work to keep things going at home.

A young woman who wanted to be a great doctor but was never admitted to medical school.

A businessman who had hoped all his life to make his business a great success, but the competition was much tougher than he had ever expected, and he soon found himself declaring bankruptcy.

A couple whose marriage is on the rocks. When it started out it was so sweet and good but now... now it's just not the same.

Examples are galore of people sacrificing a hope or a dream due to circumstances beyond their control. Yet we are people of hope, bearing our crosses because we know that Jesus is with us helping us carry our crosses. Let us not be discouraged, but carry the crosses because cross leads us to glory.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ Sept. 14

9am-12noon Holy Name Mtg - Regina Caeli Room
9:30am Holy Name Recite Rosary - Church

MONDAY ~ Sept. 15

8:30 am Novena ~ Church

TUESDAY ~ Sept 16

7:00 pm Blue Army Devotions ~ Church

WEDNESDAY ~ Sept 17

4:30-5:45pm Religious Ed. Classes Grades 1-4 ~ Parish Center
7:00-8:15pm Religious Ed. Classes Grades 5-7 I.I. ~ Parish Center
7:00 pm KOC Social Mtg. ~ Parish Hall

THURSDAY ~ Sept. 18

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal ~ Church

FRIDAY Sept. 19

No Activities

SATURDAY ~ Sept. 20

11:00 am Confession ~ Church
4:00 pm Confession ~ Church

SUNDAY ~ Sept. 21

No Activities

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

September 14, The Exaltation of the Cross

8:00 am

+ Thomas Budge from Jeannie Delaney

10:00 am

+ Holy Name

12:00 Noon

+ F. Ruth Springer from Family

September 15, Monday Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am

+ For Our Parishioners from Our Pastor

September 16, Tuesday St. Cornelius

8:00 am

+ Thomas Dischler from Loving Family

September 17, Wednesday Weekday

8:00 am

+ Manuel Castillo from OLP Staff

September 18, Thursday Weekday

8:00 am

+ Robert L. Bertekap from Sherri, Gerry & Gerald

September 19, Friday Weekday

8:00 am

+ Barbara Coyle from Sue K.

September 20, Saturday Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon,

Paul Chong Ha-sang

8:00 am

+ Carol Szmareta from Joann Grandal

5:15 pm

+ Charles Kolator from Carol & Ron

September 21, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am

+ Zenobio & Haydee Aguirre from The Aguirre Family

10:00 am

+ John Potts from Nancy, & John Joseph Potts

12:00 Noon

+ Fructuoso Cielo Ho from Maria Raymundo



September 14, 2025, Hymns

Breaking Bread # 705 Lift High the Cross

Breaking Bread #422 What Wondrous Love is This

Breaking Bread #469 How Great Thou Art

Breaking Bread #190 Alleluia! Alleluia!

PARISH ORGANIZATION & MINISTRIES

ALTAR-ROSARY SOCIETY: 1st Sunday of the month. Contact Angela Chundak at 732-221-0977

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact the Parish Office. **Baptism** are held on the 4th Sunday of every other month.

BLUE ARMY DEVOTIONS: Tuesday at 7:00pm

CHOIR: Meets in the Church every Thursday at 7:00pm

COLUMBIETTES #9199: 2nd Thursday at 7:00pm

HOLY NAME SOCIETY: 2nd Sunday of the month. Contact Alan Nygard 732-986-3199.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #9199: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00pm

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday at 8:30am

PRE-CANA MINISTRY: 2nd Saturday of March & 3rd Saturday Of October. Contact the Parish Office.

FOCCUS: Contact Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: All persons seeking instruction or more information about membership in the Roman Catholic Church are invited to call the parish office.

ROSARY: 1st Sunday of every month at 9:30am sharp before the 10:00am Mass and 1st Saturday of the Month following 8:00am Mass.

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY: meets as scheduled

2026 Massbook will open
on Monday September 22,
2025. Mass are \$10.00 each.

STEWARDSHIP

Sept 7, 2025

Online Giving	\$ 2,519.50
Religious Ed.	\$ 901.00
Mail In	\$ 1,048.00
Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,978.00
National Shrine	\$ 730.00
Mission Appeal	\$ 872.00

Total \$ 11,000.50

August 31, 2025

Online Giving:	\$ 2,291.50
Mail In:	\$ 531.00
Parish Assessment:	\$ 721.00
Gaza Collection	\$ 1,229.00
Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,461.00

Total \$ 10,233.50

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for remembering your parish with your continued financial support is essential and much appreciated by our parish community.

Ministry Schedule for September 20/21

5:15 p. m.

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Deyak,
Barbara Balog, Barbara Sinko

Reader: Gloria DeMarzo

Altar Server: Anna & Veronica Delgado

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Roseanne Brady,
Arlene Verendia, Tom Bednar

Reader: James Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Shingola,
Jennifer Sardo, Kenneth Egan

Reader: Thomas Deignan

Altar Server: Alex Gironda & Brienne Szylar

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Lorraine O'Prandy,
Arlene & Augustus Cezar

Reader: Corinne Ambrosi

Altar Server: Alex Nwinyi



Candle
In Memory of
Catherine Gamba
From
Family

Please pray for the Sick

Eunice McLaughlin, Raymond Miller,
Danielle Maglies, Francis Lee, Dotty
Karnowski, Anna Verrico, Rolando Rey,
Christine Mary Brown, Donna Ferrara, Lonie
Ebarle, Julia Forsythe, Joanne M., Maria
Lavid, Teddy Sabo, Lisa Sabo, Norma Nebus,
Nancy Gaid, Joan Trainor, Peter Rutkowski,
Renata Wisnik, Bishop Bootkoski, Raul Ramos,
Veronica Roush, Suzanne Pontes Sarisky,
Kelly Lease, Maria Turek, Evelyn Prince, Alex
Deliso, John Herring, Michael Miller,
Marie Burke, Bill Herring, Mercedes de Leon,
Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern,
Norma Izzo, Shelly Greene

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

Paul Coleman, Gloria Rodriguez, Eleanor Both,
Marian Zelesnik, David Mirabella, Theodore
Urlton, Lucio J. Cerreta Jr., Cathleen Baptista,
Wayne Borg, Lois Wiuff, Robert Bertekap,
Barbara Coyle, Paciencia Aviso, Renee Soto,
Maria Couto, Michael O'Hara, Anthony
Sclafani, Bart Miller, Hans Hadman, Ralph
Baez, Maria Lopes, Sandra Husko, John Gonyo

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The calendar says it's Autumn! What better time to come and meet some new friends? This month, on ***September 17***, is our "Welcome Back" meeting, Catholic women age 18+ are invited to come to any meeting and see what we're all about. Our members belong to several parishes, including OLP, St. James, St. Cecelia, and St. Matthew, so chances are you already know someone who's a member! We meet at the ***K of C Hall in Woodbridge at 6:45 PM.*** For more info, email cdacourt769@gmail.com Hope to see you there!

"Tell me why I should go on living."

In his book **Nine Essential Things I've Learned about Life**, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner tells of a meeting with a member of his congregation. "Rabbi, tell me why I should go on living." Rabbi Kushner did not know the woman well - she and her husband were occasional worshippers at the synagogue. There were no medical issues or financial problems; her two sons were grown, but neither had a serious girlfriend, so no weddings were in the offing; she had had a job until a couple of years before but had been laid off. "It's just that I feel that most of the nice things that will ever happen to me have already happened and that I have nothing to look forward to." The rabbi struggled with how to respond. Clearly, she was bored - but he couldn't tell her that. He had counselled the chronically ill, the seriously injured, and the dying with reasons to wake up every morning and look forward to the new day. But he had never counseled someone who didn't want to go on living because she found life boring. Rabbi Kushner writes:

"I pointed out that if her life was lacking in drama, it might be because she was operating with a limited cast of characters: herself, a husband, and two children. She had spoken about her husband and two sons, but were there no other family members, no friends, no organizations she belonged to . . . ? "The other thing that concerned me about what you said to me," I told her, 'was it was all about what other people were or not doing for you, and that is something you don't have a lot of control over. I didn't hear anything about what you were doing with or for others, yet that might be the exact thing to start changing, the easiest way to feel better about your life. "I've been a rabbi a long time,' I told her. 'I've dealt with a lot of people who were hurting - women whose husbands had died or had left their marriage, people grieving the death of a child or the loss of a job, people whose deteriorating health left them unable to do the things they once enjoyed. In every case, I gave them one rule and it almost always worked: the best way to feel better about yourself is to find someone to help . . .

"'You came here,' I told the woman in my office, 'asking why you should go on living. I can't give you a compelling answer. I can only give you advice born of my own experience, which has probably been very different than yours. But I can tell you this with one hundred percent confidence: Stick with life, let more people into your life, learn to care for them. Leave them grateful for having known you . . . " Rabbi Kushner doesn't know how the story ended. He stepped down from his position as rabbi not long after that. He never heard from her or about her since, "but at least I didn't see the woman's name on an obituary page." "If I were presented with the same challenge again, I would give the same answer. The best cure for feeling down on your own life is to reach out to help someone else. I've never known it to fail. And the best prescription for adding joy to your own life is to share your life with others. You will increase the happiness of your own life by sharing their happy times in addition to your own." **Jesus said: *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* Matthew 16: 21-27**

Christ urges us to "lose" that part of our life that is centered in ephemeral, perishable things so that we may "gain" lives grounded in the love of God: to lose our anger, our disappointment, our need for control in order to find meaning and purpose in doing for others and contributing to the common good. In "dying" to ourselves we become something greater; in letting go of the temporary and the fleeting we become richer; in the suffering we endure we become stronger, in the failures we experience we become wiser. Grace is to discover the fullness of what our lives can be in "losing" our self-centeredness and discovering our lives' joy in seeking happiness and blessedness for those we love.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Did you hear this long joke about Labor Day? It doesn't work for me! My first job was working in a donut shop, but I soon got tired of the hole business. Then I manufactured calendars, but my days were numbered. I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it. Mainly because it was a sew-sew job, de-pleating and de-pressing. I became a Velcro salesman, but I couldn't stick with it. I tried my hand at a professional career in tennis, but it wasn't my racket. I was too high strung. I became a baker, but it wasn't a cakewalk, and I couldn't make enough dough. They fired me after I left a cake out in the rain. I was a masseur for a while, but I rubbed people the wrong way. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining. I became a personal trainer in a gym, but they said I wasn't fit for the job. I thought about being a historian, but I couldn't see a future in it. Next I was an electrician, but I found the work shocking and revolting, so they discharged me. I tried being a teacher, but I soon lost my principal, my faculties, and my class. I took a job as an elevator operator. The job had its ups and downs, and I got the shaft. I sold origami, but the business folded. I tried being a fireman, but I suffered burnout. I was a professional fisherman, but I couldn't live on my net income. I next worked in a shoe factory, but I just didn't fit in. They thought I was a loafer, and I got the boot. I worked at Starbucks, but I had to quit because it was always the same old grind. So I've retired, and I find I'm a perfect fit for this job! 😊

VALERIE PRICE TOOK UP THE CROSS!

Twenty-three-year-old Valerie Price went to Somalia to work as a nurse. She wanted to help people who had nothing. She wanted to offer them a better way of life. Valerie was concerned about her safety, but nothing could stop her from doing her work. She was put in charge of a feeding center in Mogadishu. Through her efforts, children who had been near starvation were fed. Valerie even established a school so the children could learn and have some hope for the future. She became nationally known for her committed service. Valerie, however, was killed by armed bandits outside the school she had started. She was willing to risk her life to help other people. Her story, like those of millions of others, is the story of a Christian who accepted the challenge of Christian discipleship given in today's Gospel, by "*denying themselves, taking up their crosses and following Jesus.*"

Parochial Ministry

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D.
Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal C.M.I., (In Res.)
Deacon John A. Raychel

Parish Services

Rev. John J. Zec, Ph.D., Music Director
Candida Gonzalez, Coordinator of Religious Ed
Lourdes Hnath, Organist

Parish Staff

Walter Springer, Business Administrator
Norma Izzo, Bookkeeping Assistant
Dawn Aube, Parish/Religious Education Secretary

Trustees

Joan C. Deyak
Robert Butvilla



Mass for Life & NJ March for Life Bus Trip

**NJ Bishops' Mass for Life Thursday,
September 25, 2025 9:30 AM**
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption,

151 N. Warren Street, Trenton

The NJ Rally & March for Life will follow at 125 West State Street in Trenton. Rally is 11:00 AM and the March begins at 12:00 Noon Bus Trip is \$20 per passenger. Bus will leave the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway at 7:15 AM and Mass will begin at the Cathedral in Trenton at 9:30 AM. After Mass, everyone will walk a short way to the Rally and March.

The bus will depart Trenton at 1:15 PM and will arrive back in Piscataway approximately at 2:45 PM.

For more information, please email
amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543

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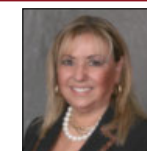
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Dr. Seeman, Sr. has been a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Peace for 60 years, has been part of OLP from Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation and Marriage, and has served the community for 35 years.

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