

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2026



GPS: 620 Amby Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837
Mailing Address P.O. Box 60, Fords, NJ
08863
Parish Office: 26 Maple Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837
Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm
Phone: 732-738-7940
Email: mail@olpfords.org
Webpage: www.olpfords.org

**HOLY SACRIFICE
OF THE MASS**
Saturday 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon
Weekday Masses:
Monday-Saturday:
8:00 a.m.
Last Tuesday of the month:
7:00 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear OLP Family,

I remember reading this story about comedian Yakov Smirnoff, a Ukrainian-American comedian, actor and writer who began his career as a stand-up comedian in the Soviet Union. When he first came to the US, he was not prepared for the incredible variety of instant products available in American grocery stores. He says, *"On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk--you just add water, and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice--you just add water, and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, What a country!"*

Smirnoff is joking but we could be making these assumptions about Christian Transformation. We go to church as if we are going to the grocery store: Powdered Christian. Just add water and disciples are born not made. Unfortunately, there is no such powder and disciples of Jesus Christ are not instantly born. We must understand what it means to be a disciple. Does this mean that we should deny ourselves and take up the cross? YES, many times we are called to do that because that is exactly what Jesus said and did!

Today we are beginning the most Holy Week of the liturgical year and the holiest days of this week are called the "Sacred Paschal Triduum." In today's bulletin, I have explained some of the theological and practical meaning of these most holy three days. These celebrations are filled with Scriptures, symbols and rites that touch us and enrich us spiritually.

Hence, I earnestly invite us all to come and celebrate this unfathomable love of God for each one of us during the Triduum. Join the Church services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Sunday. Keep the schedule handy on your refrigerator or mark those events on your calendar. We will grow in greater knowledge of our faith when we attend these liturgical services.

Our OLP choir, though small but truly amazing, has been practicing for these services. I have been enjoying the preview of what they have in store for us this holy week. The sacrifice these committed music ministers of our parish has been making will fill us all with a prayerful taste of soul-filling and inspirational music. Come as a family and let this week help you grow closer to Jesus Christ who loves each one of us so much: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life"* (John. 3:16)..

May He enrich us and bless us.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

March 29 Palm Sunday 8:00am

+Wayne Borg from Family

10:00am

+To the Glory of God from Virginia

12:00 noon

+Kyler Robertson from Mother Marianna
& Sister Anna

March 30, Monday 8:00am

+Donald Jantas from Matthew Pike &
Family

March 31, Tuesday 8:00am

+Wayne Borg from Sandy DeSapio

April 1, Wednesday 8:00am

+For Our Parishioners

April 2, Thursday 7:00pm

+Lucio J. Cerreta Sr from Paul, Elaine &
Family

April 3, Friday 3:00pm

+Liturgy of the Passion

April 4, Saturday

7:00pm

+OCIA Candidates and their Families

April 5 Sunday 8:00am

+To the Glory of God from Virginia

10:00am

+Peggy Schoen from The Schoen Family

12:00 noon

+Hector Perez from Amy & Bobby Claffy

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 29

No Activities

Monday - March 30

8:30am Novena - Church

Tuesday - March 31

4:00pm Chrism Mass - St. Francis Church

7:00pm Parish Mass - Church

Wednesday - April 1

No Religious Ed. Classes

7:00pm ALTAR SERVER PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK

8:00pm KOC Business Mtg. - Parish Hall

April 2 Holy Thursday

Parish Office Closed

8:00am Prayer Service

7:00pm Mass of the Lords Supper

9:00pm Service of Sorrows

April 3 Good Friday

Parish Office Closed

8:00am Prayer Service

3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

7:00pm Stations of the Cross - Church

April 4 Holy Saturday

8am Prayer Services

11:00am Practice for Easter Vigil

No Confessions Today

1:00pm Blessing of the Food

7:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday April 5 Easter Sunday

No Activities

Ministry Schedule for HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 2 7:00PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Margarite Cebulski,
Kenneth Egan,

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Anna Delgado, Veronica Delgado,
Pablo Delgado, Alex Girona

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3, 3:00PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Nygard, Kathy Kazary

Reader: Alyssa Dantes

Altar Servers: Brienne Szylar, Alexis Nwinyi

Saturday Easter Vigil 7:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Sinko, Barbara Balog, Joan Deyak

Reader: Thomas Deignan, Bill Herring,

Corinne Ambrosi, Frank Heelan

Altar Server: Ashley Alfaro Sienna Santos,
Anna Delgado, Veronica Delgado, Pablo Delgado

Ministry Schedule for

April 5, 2026

Easter Day

8:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Bednar,
Arlene Verendia, Roseanne Brady

Reader: Thomas Carroll

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Maryann Shingola,
Mary Prumos, Maria Frey

Reader: Alyssa Dantes

Altar Server: Alex Gironda

12:00 Noon

Eucharistic Ministers: Frank Heelan,
Kathy Kazary, Benjamin Praval

Reader: Bill Herring

Altar Server: Ava Pridady

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

On Good Friday the Church our mother gives us her children a challenging reminder: "Look at this Holy Cross of Christ and learn to appreciate the great price he paid for our freedom from the slavery of sin by his suffering and death on the cross." What is the message of the cross? The poet gets the message of the love of God from the cross. The business man views the cross as a ransom, a redemption price. The lawyers and judges prefer to remember the message of the cross as an expression of the justice of God for the wages of man's sin. The converted Jews prefer to compare the cross to the sacrifices of the Old Testament. For the martyrs and saints the cross of Christ gives meaning to our pains and suffering.

Please pray for the Sick

Eunice McLaughlin, Raymond Miller, Danielle Maglies, 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, Raul Ramos, Veronica Roush, Suzanne Pontes Sarisky, Kelly Lease, Maria Turek, Evelyn Prince, Alex Deliso, John Herring, Marie Burke, Bill Herring, Mercedes de Leon, Eve Morawski, Andrew Southern, Michael Miller, Shelly Greene, Danuta, Debra Ambrosi, Michael L., Wendy Snee, Catherine Miller, Tano Camarillo

Please pray for the Dearly Departed

Kevin Mitro, Jacqueline Collie, John Warshany, Irene Newman, Fr. Daniel Sloan, Barbara Felcetto, Arlene Herman, Joyce Trasky, Viola Davitt, Agnes Smith, Anne Trepono, Debbie Hernandez, Donald Jantas, Darlene Holowka, Debbie Mullen, Madeline Strong, Octavio Ruiz, John Harvie, Anthony Alexander, Thomas J. Felcetto, Evelyn Mrozek, Mildred Manresa, Marie Gironda, Evelyn Codd, Gary Dzama, Michael Sena, Marie Pugliese, Stefen Wysocki



Sanctuary Candle

In memory of

Domenica DeBari

from

Fran, Bill & Joe

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OFFERTORY GIFTS

Anyone who wishes to present the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass should speak with one of the ushers at the main entrance to the Church before Mass. The usher will give you instructions on when to bring the gifts forward.

Welcome to the triumph and the tragedy of the Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, General of the Union Army, at the McLean house in Appomattox, Virginia. This surrender ended the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. State against state, brother against brother, it was a conflict that literally tore the nation apart. Five days later, on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, America's most revered president, Abraham Lincoln, was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre. It was Lincoln who wrote the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in the U.S. forever. It was Lincoln who wrote and gave The Gettysburg Address. Lincoln hated war, but he was drawn into this one because he believed it was the only way to save the nation. On Palm Sunday the war ended. Triumph. On Good Friday, Abraham Lincoln became the first U.S. president to be assassinated. Tragedy.

Welcome to Holy Week. Welcome to the triumph and the tragedy of the six days preceding Easter. The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the time of year we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in Him, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem and the drama of His trial, culminating in His crucifixion, death and burial.

"But you wear a cross!"

On her first night there, the head counselor said that three of the boys had asked to escort her to dinner. Alone! How would she handle it if all three decided to act out at once? She swallowed hard. She desperately needed this job so she fought back the panic and walked with her charges to the dining hall. They passed through the cafeteria line as tantrums and fights erupted around them. Fortunately none of her boys exhibited any kind of behavioral outburst. They made their way to a table in the center of the busy cafeteria and the boys took their seats. Margaret picked up her fork and was about to take the first bite when she noticed that all three boys were staring at her. "What's the matter?" she asked. "Aren't you going to ask a blessing?" asked eight-year-old Peter. "I didn't think I was supposed to," she responded. "This is a state school, isn't it?" "Yes," said David, his blue eyes brimming, "but you wear a cross." Her grandmother's words surged to the surface of her memory. "Never forget what this cross means," her grandmother said. "We thought that meant something," said Roman, clearly disappointed. "It does. Thank you for reminding me," Margaret said, as she bowed her head, no longer afraid. (CATHOLIC DIGEST, Feb. 92, p. 64) Margaret learned something about sainthood that day. Saints trust in God and God alone for their ultimate security. Saints submit their will to the will of God. Saints stand firm and witness to their faith

How to explain bread and wine becoming Eucharist?

A man came to a priest and wanted to make fun of his faith, so he asked, "How can bread and wine turn into the Body and Blood of Christ?" The Priest answered, "No problem. You yourself change food into your body and blood so why can't Christ do the same?" But the man did not give up. He asked, "But how can the entire body of Christ be in such a small host?" "In the same way that the vast landscape before you can fit into your little eye." But he still persisted, "How can the same Christ be present in all your churches at the same time?" The priest then took a mirror and let the man look into it. Then he let the mirror fall to the ground and break and said to the skeptic. "There is only one of you and yet you can find your face reflected in each piece of that broken mirror at the same time."



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



The six-year-old came home from Palm Sunday services proudly carrying his palm. Mom and Dad quizzed him on his Sunday school lesson for the day. He responded enthusiastically, "Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey. And the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, "O Susanna..."



Little Johnny was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from Church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked why. His father explained, "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved palm branches to honor him; so we got palm branches today." "Aw, shucks," grumbled Little Johnny. "The one Sunday I can't go to Church, and Jesus shows up!"



CLOTHING DRIVE APRIL 25th & 26th

Our Lady of Peace Holy Name Altar Rosary Society will be conducting a Clothing Drive on the Weekend of April 25th & April 26th.

Please bring all **wearable**:

men's, women's and children's clothing shoes, belts, handbags, stuffed animals, pillows, blankets, towels and bed linens to the Parish Center GYM

Saturday, April 25th from 2:00pm to 6:30pm and Sunday, April 26th from 9:30am to 2:00pm.

All clothing must be in plastic bags.

NO coat hangers.

To better serve our Parish Family and Community,

The Holy Name Society will do home pick up:. Please call Alan Nygard (732)-986-3199 to schedule a pick up. Please tell your friends and neighbors.

HOLY WEEK

April 2, 2026 Holy Thursday

Mass 7:00pm

Service of Sorrows 9:00pm

April 3, 2026 Good Friday

Service 3:00pm

Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

April 4, 2026 Holy Saturday

Blessing of the food 1:00pm

Easter Vigil 7:00pm

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday

Mass Times 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00noon

STEWARDSHIP

Due to early publication, collection will be posted for next week's bulletin.

What do we celebrate on Holy Thursday?

On Holy Thursday we celebrate three anniversaries: 1) the anniversary of the first Holy Mass, 2) the anniversary of the institution of ministerial priesthood in order to perpetuate the Holy Mass, convey God's forgiveness to repentant sinners and preach the Good News of Salvation, 3) the anniversary of Jesus' promulgation of His new commandment of love: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Today we remember how Jesus transformed the Jewish Passover into the New Testament Passover. The Jewish Passover was, in fact, a joint celebration of two ancient thanksgiving celebrations. The descendants of Abel, who were shepherds, used to lead their sheep from the winter pastures to the summer pastures after the sacrificial offering of a lamb to God. They called this celebration the "*Pass over.*" On the other hand, the descendants of Cain, who were farmers, held a harvest festival called the *Massoth* in which they offered unleavened bread to God as an act of thanksgiving. The Passover feast of the Israelites (Exodus 12:26-37) was a harmonious combination of these two ancient feasts of thanksgiving, commanded by the Lord God to be celebrated yearly by all Israelites to thank God for the miraculous liberation of their ancestors from Egypt and their exodus from slavery to the Promised Land.

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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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